



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

SEPTEMBER 2014

Why Warm Water Fish?

By Sybil Hunter

“Warm water fly fishing can fill in when you can’t get up north,” said Dirk Fishbach, MFFC’s September speaker. According to Dirk, Michigan has 24,000 miles of warm water streams. Warm water is good for many reasons: “aquatic diversity, slower flows, and runoff influences.” “Warm water is a bit flashier and responds to rain quicker,” said Fishbach. “It’s kind of more of a stew than a trout stream.”

Warm water houses many varieties of fish. Among them are:

- **Larger mouth bass:** “They tend to put it all into the take. It eats anything that doesn’t eat back.”
- **Small mouth bass:** “ferocious - a superior fighting fish,” touts Fishbach. “Bass for the most part, fight with their big flat tail it’s a torque master. It’s not gonna run. It blasts off and blasts back, kicking you around.”
- **Pike:** “Supreme predators... requiring specialized tackle when you try to catch them.”
- **Rock bass:** “They are often viewed with disdain...but anything that tugs at the end of a line is good fishing,” said Fishbach.
- **Bluegill.**
- **Carp:** “One of the fastest growing” catches because it has “the excitement of salt water fishing” without the expensive travel. “If you haven’t fished for carp, you gotta try it,” says Fishbach.

Fishbach suggests the following rods:

Bass: 5, 6, or 7 weight, 9 foot length, good singing action reel, double taper line in 5 weight, weight forward for 6 or 7. “The reason I use a 5 weight double taper line, is because I’m cheap...when you wear it out, you can flip it over. It presents the fly more delicately.”

Pike: 8 weight, 9 foot, disk drag reel, weighted forward line. “They have a little more powerful run at the beginning,” he said.

Carp: 7 weight, 8 foot fiberglass, disk drag reel, double taper line. “It rolls over slowly for the best presentation,” said Fishbach. “I like to fish carp with mulberries. It’s the only time carp get stupid.”

“I broke into the sport making hand tied leaders,” said Fishbach. He suggests 7 1/2“ with tie-able wire for Pike. For carp, 4-1-4, 30#, 20#, or 12# for tippet. “I don’t use expensive line (for big fish). I go to Meijer...because that’s how you do that when fishing for carp - even if you own a fly shop!”

“Stick to the basics,” advises Fishbach. “Black wooly buggers, Fuzzaboo, a zoo cougar...” For aquatics: lead eye leech “I know they eat it,” crayfish with the hook up as “the difficulty is actually animating them correctly,” the Gartside gurgler, Chernobyl ant, and the sneaky Pete.”

“I always imagined someone got
Continued on Page 2



September, 24 2014

Activities Meeting

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

October 8, 2014

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: William Spicer
Topic: Fishing In Canada
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

October 29, 2014


Activities Meeting

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

“It’s a torquemaster.”

info@BailiwicksOutdoors.com

Dirk Fischbach Lauren Kingsley



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enebriated and put the popper on (the sneaky Pete) backwards,” joked Fishbach. “Definitely there are times fish prefer a popper with the popper on right, other times they clearly prefer the popper on backwards. Don’t switch. Stick with what they like.”

Locations Fishback recommends include:

- **Huron River:** “There is all natural reproduction, not as productive as it was,” said Fishbach. When asked why, Fishbach responded, “We are trying to get people to not use fertilizers,” and “It is challenging with dam operations. We still have a lot of good fishing,” Fishbach said hearteningly.
- **Hudson Mills to Bell Road:** “You can fish all day and into the evening. There are fast riffles, deep runs, and tailouts. When you park in the last access, there is a dramatic bend to the east, then there are 100 log jams, and that is the best fishing. Not a lot of people fish it.”
- **Dexter Huron to Zeeb Road:** “There is an island called Guide’s Rest Island.” If you see a foot of rock sticking out you can fish it. There are about 10 log jams in the area.
- **East Delhi:** There is general fishing.
- **Osborne Hill:** This is the best fly fishing according to Fishbach. By Tubbs Road. “There are big broad expanses of stream, good dry fly water, a lot of rocks, and you can catch some goof fish there.”

Fishbach also suggests **The Flint River:** On this very flashy water, “You need to get to know and appreciate the fantastic small mouth on the Flint, fish that are fat. They are 1/4 pound heavier than any other river.” The Shiawassee, The Raison and The Grand.

The major seasons are:

- **Spring** for: smooth criminal, weighted flies, lead eyed leech
- **Summer** for: woolly buggers
- **August & September** for: terrestrials in the afternoon (Isonychia, Golden Drakes, etc.)
- **Fall:** “There is a great caddis hatch on warm afternoons, and streamer fishing - they are fattening up for winter.”

Just up from Aubrees’ in Dexter, Michigan, Bailiwicks, owned and operated by Dirk Fishbach. “We carry Hardy, Winston, Galvan Treys, Douglas Outdoor, and Redington.” He also features Lauren Kingsley’s jewelry.



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Corrections: In the Summer Issue, Jason Davis was inadvertently changed to Jeff Davis, during publication. Jason cites other erroneous information. I contacted him personally in way of a formal apology. Any further concerns will be published, upon receipt from Jason Davis. - Sybil Hunter, Editor of *The Evening Hatch*.

September's 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, then this pattern is for you.

There are a number of flies that work great, 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, is very effective for landing these huge creatures, is 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

FEATURED TYER FOR SEPTEMBER

By Todd A.Schotts

With summer ending soon and leaves changing, this is usually a good sign that the Lunker Bass (Smallmouth or Largemouth) will be starting their major feeding frenzy to get ready for the long, cold winter. With this knowledge, our featured tyer for September will be demonstrating a unique fly for those huge dancing creatures of lakes and the rivers!

Master tyer and fly designer Jim Weakland, will feature his weaving of flies; Jim has created many deadly fly patterns. This fly is one of the newest creations to come out of his fly tying lair. It's called "The Ava," named after his granddaughter.

"The Ava" is probably one of the deadliest bass patterns I have seen in a long time. Watching Jim pull in bass after bass with this fly just left me speechless on one of our kayak fishing trips this year. It is a pattern that, as you strip and pause, the fly dives, comes up to float, and then dives again (sort of like a wounded minnow).

If you are fishing for bass, and want a new deadly fly; bring your tying vise and tools, and get ready to tie one on at our September 24th activity meeting. Tight lines and snazzy flies.



The Ava

Tied & Created by Jim Weakland

Hook: 37160 Mustad or Gamakatsu C124 - Sizes vary

Thread: 140 Denier – 6/0 color to coordinate with materials

Tail: Small amount of Marabou or Flashabou – any colors

Body: Flashabou (wrap around the hook shank)

Wing: 2mm Close Cell Foam – 1/2" or 3/4" inch strip

Legs: Round Rubber Legs or Silicone Skirt Material

Head: Dubbing - over and around rubber legs to form head

Member Spotlight

Charlie Gray

“Fly fishing in Michigan is extraordinary,” said one Charlie Gray (aka Bubba), long time member of MFFC.



“I’ve been fly fishing since the ’50’s,” As many of us have done, he started fly fishing with his father. “In 1964, my wife gave me my first fly rod.”

“I love to fish the western part of the state - we will say ‘Lake x.’ I lost a bass so powerful he straightened out a #4 hook and landed a 19 inch one.”

“I have fly fished numerous fresh and salt water venues...my favorite place to fish is the Big Horn River in Montana,” said Bubba. “And my favorite fishing buddy is Jim Holly. “He’s also called Skeeter.”

Bubba and Skeeter help Al Bulszewicz teach youth casting at the Boy Scout Merit Badge school. They also attend many of the other MFFC activities. “I have logged over 30 days this year in MFFC and Multi Lakes Youth fishing related activities,” says Bubba. As many know, he is a mainstay at the many MFFC booths at events across the state.

A proud octogenarian, Bubba is a retired mechanical engineer from Ford Motor Company, a Virginia Tech grad, and an Airline Rated Pilot. Bubba, thank you for all you do as a member of MFFC!



MFFC Meeting Calendar

2014 - 2015 Proposed Meeting Dates

2014

Cafeteria

September 10

October 8

November 5

December 3 (Gym reserved Activity Night)

Board Room

September 17

October 15

November 12

December 10

Cafeteria & Gym

September 24

October 29

November 19

December 17 (Gym unavailable)

2015

Cafeteria

January 7

February 4

March 4 (Activity Night)

April 1

May 6 (Activity Night)

Board Room

January 14

February 11

March 11

April 15

May 13

Cafeteria & Gym

January 21

February 25

March 18 (Speaker Night)

April 22

May 20 *Club Banquet*

The first meeting of each month is a Speaker Meeting, and the last meeting of each month is an Activity Meeting, unless otherwise noted above.

The Conclave

By Terry Drinkwine

Somewhere deep in a pool below the riffle, just downstream from Rainbow Bend, browns, rainbows, brookies, steelhead and one old Chinook that's been decomposing since fall but doesn't know he's dead yet, gather for the aquatic conclave akin to the Trout Unlimited State Conference - without the fundraising pitch of course. Each fish represents his species, giving them their take on what is about to happen. That is, all except the Chinook, who is the last of his generation and not quite sure why he's there.

It's the end of April - not that they have a calendar, it just feels as though it's time for them to meet and set their agenda for the coming seasons - and they've learned they stand a better chance of surviving if they put their collective fins together and plan.

The brown spoke first, "I've been replaying last year in my mind and decided I'm going to stay away from brown furry globs that plop down over my hole, or just in front of the bank, unless I see small legs scrambling like crazy and bobbing to get back out of the water, especially if its tail is bent underneath it."

The rainbow spoke next. "Everything that sticks to my jaw seems to have a tail bent underneath it. I'm going to avoid those deformed small-fry that look like they came from a nuclear waste dump - not only are they deformed but some glow in the dark."

The steelhead pulsated his gill plates in agreement. "At least you guys aren't getting hooked by stupid looking eggs that look like dingle-berries from a sturgeon. If they didn't

COLLECTIVE FINS

float through my redd when I have other things on my mind it would be ok, but stupid looking or not, I can't help putting them in my mouth, if only to move them from the redd."

The brookie just darted around the hole and finally steadied himself in the current putting in his two cents worth. "You guys worry too much. I go after things thrown on the water, float beneath the surface of the water and are drug along the bottom. It's kind of fun seeing some of the dumb looking things the "things with two legs" thrown at me. It's fun too, taking them into deadfalls and stuff where they come free from their tether. Besides, even if I get pulled in, I get let go. The only disgusting thing about the whole process is, that "two legged thing" that holds me, well ...it sure is ugly; really plain - no color. And they can't swim worth a damn; when they get in all the way, they flail like a mouse trying to walk his way back to the bank."

The Chinook got a momentary spurt of energy and said, "You guys all fool yourselves. I have to be extra careful; most of the time I'm just sitting or swimming when something heavy with three hooks comes up from beneath me and rips off a piece of me or drags me sideways to the top."

When he had finished his thought, he was gone. His gills stopped moving and what was left of him turned on its side and was taken by the current downstream, floating to the top where paws pulled him from the water.

TD



THE PICNIC REPORT

2014 Michigan Fly Fishing Club Annual Picnic

By Joe Verona

If you missed this year's Michigan fly fishing club picnic, let me rub in what a great time we had - even though you weren't there.

This year's picnic was once again held at the sprawling Multi-Lakes Conservation Association Park in Commerce Township. For those who have not been there, it is a picturesque park complete with horseshoe pits, playground equipment for the kids, archery and shooting lanes, skeet courses, along with a lake equipped with a boat launch and dock. The Pavilion sports a mega grill large enough to barbecue a big ox.



The weather was picture-perfect. I arrived to find members catching pan fish and bass off the dock. Putting a whole brisket stuffed with jalapeño, a whole pork shoulder stuffed with garlic, and a turkey breast seasoned with those lyrical herbs, parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme, only filled up a small corner of the grill. As members arrived, the table was soon being filled with side dishes of coleslaw, beans, potato salad, corn on the cob, macaroni salad, and all sorts of delicious side dishes and desserts.

As the food was cooking, you had an opportunity to have a cold beverage, enjoy some hors d'oeuvres, and meet some friends that maybe you have not seen in a while. This was the perfect opportunity to tell a few stories of your fishing adventures you had the past summer (otherwise known as lying)! The meat was sliced up, and served with a side of my soon- to- be world famous Blackberry Jack Daniels barbecue sauce. People lined the sides of the buffet table and filled their plates to capacity. I won't mention any names, but I've seen some members get up for seconds and even thirds! Those waders are going to fit a bit tighter next year!

After dinner, hoops were set up throughout the park as a challenging sporting flies course. After all, if you don't have proof of that giant 21 inch brown that you caught last summer, at least you can show off to your friends your expert casting ability. I had fun going through the course a couple of times, then decided that since I had my rod out, to go out to the dock and do some real fishing. When I returned, I saw Todd Schotts with an ear to ear grin holding a brand-new rod he won from the competition. Competition?? Fly rod as a prize?? And I missed this only to catch a fish that I didn't even land. Well, next year there's going to be some stiff competition. As anyone that has fished with me knows, I practice casting a lot - a lot more than landing fish.

The party broke up about four or five o'clock, enough time to head to one of the many local lakes to fool a smallmouth bass, or maybe even a pike into taking your fly.

If you missed it this year, you missed a great time. Make sure you put it on your calendar for next year, and take pictures of all those fish you caught during the summer, because nobody is going to believe you if you don't!

Photo credits: John Eriksson

Picture Perfect



“My Beat”

2014 AuSable River Clean-Up Photos

By Spencer Vanderhoof



Ready to work!

SPENCER IN HIS FAVORITE SPOT



Check out that clean river!!



Dave Batchelor and Patrick Pagano cleaning the river. This is the promo shot we are sending off to Anheuser-Busch to try and extract some donation money from them to assuage their guilt for being the beer of choice of polluting conoecists.





OUTING	DATE	CHAIR	CONTACT
FFF-GLC Fly Tying Expo	November 1, 2015	Bill Shannon	
Ultimate Fishing Show	January 8 - 11, 2015	TBD	
Members School	February 14, 2015	Mike Doyle	miketheflyguy@gmail.com
Outdorama	February 26 - March 1, 2015	TBD	
Midwest Fly Fishing Expo	March 14 - 15, 2015	Joe Sprys	flyfishmichigan@aol.com
Spring Steelhead	TBD	Al Bullock	
Trout Tune-Up	April 4, 2015	Scott Freeburg	sfree357@aol.com
Boy Scout School	April 18, 2015	Bob Niemi	niemi1@yahoo.com
Youth School	May 2, 2015	Mike Doyle	miketheflyguy@gmail.com
Public School	April 4, 2015	Chris Hunter	chunter@bauerhunter.com
Opening Weekend	April 23 - 26, 2015	Scott Freeburg	sfree357@aol.com
Trout Opener	April 25, 2015	Al Haxton	infoman984@sbcglobal.net
Dick Shott New Memebers	May 7 - 9, 2015	Mike Doyle	miketheflyguy@gmail.com
MFFC Banquet	May 20, 2015	Joyce Haxton & Peter Albertson	rainbow10trout@gmail.com
Smallmouth Outting	May 15 - 17, 2015	Todd A. Schotts	dragoneyeflyz-5@yahoo.com
Rayburn Outting	TBD	Dave Begley	
Club Picnic	TBD	John Eriksson	248.408.1820
Montana (1) Montana (2)	August 1- 8, 2015 August 8 - 15, 2015	Al Haxton	infoman984@sbcglobal.net
Au Sable River Clean-up At Gates Lodge	September 12, 2015	Al Haxton	infoman984@sbcglobal.net
Manistee River Clean-Up	September 19, 2015	Al Haxton	infoman984@sbcglobal.net

The deadline for submissions to *The Evening Hatch*, written or photographed, is the fifteenth of each month. Issues are published monthly September through May. A summer issue prints in August. Please submit any print contributions to: evening.hatch.mffc@gmail.com.

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