



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

January 2016

Au Sable River Under Pressure

By Sybil Hunter

Tom Baird, President of Anglers of the Au Sable, joined us in January. He was greeted by the MFFC at the January speaker's meeting with a \$1000 matching grant donation to the No Fish Poop campaign to help save the Au Sable River for future generations.

"Our major priorities are to protect the rivers (the Au Sable and the Manistee), habitat restoration, research, community outreach, education, and the annual clean up (which many MFFC members attend). There was the devastation of the timber era, then rebuilding - that's the history of this river," said Baird providing background, "Now the river is clear, sustainable and we want to protect it."

"Recent problems where the Au Sable comes under pressure are heavy usage, dams, mineral leases on the Holy Water (this was withdrawn thanks to a flurry of contact letters from members of the MFFC and other conservation groups), water withdrawals for fracking, and the proposed 50% Camp Grayling military expansion to include taking the rivers (which was withdrawn)." Now, the river is under pressure from the Harrietta Hills Fish Farm. Water used by this farm flows down the east branch, it effects the Holy Waters and due to

water flow patterns, can disease the entire river, Baird pointed out. "40% to 60% of the east branch is diverted to the hatchery where they put pollution into the river and it is dumped into the main stream."

The hatchery was founded in 1914 to stock Grayling, Brook and Brown Trout, owned by Crawford County. In 1926, it was sold to The State of Michigan and run by the MDNR until the late 1960's. It was dormant for awhile then transferred to the county government who opened it as an attraction from 1983 to 2011. In 2012, the property was leased to Harrietta.

According to Baird, there are three types of aqua culture: 1. Closed Circuit (the river flows in, is used, then pollutants are filtered out so that the water can be used again, continuing that flow); 2. Flow Through (the river flows into the facility then flows out into the river polluted and unfiltered); and 3) Net Pens (facilities are built into the middle of a large lake with no filtration/cleaning system). "Flow Through and Net Pens are bad in our eyes because they use our waters as sewer systems," explained Baird.

Proponents of the Harrietta hatchery say the farm will produce jobs to boost the economy - one to two positions in the summer season

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MFFC Calendar



January 20, 2016

Activities Meeting

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

February 3, 2016

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: John Pinto & Rich Knoles
Topic: Saltwater Fishing Photo Essay
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

February 24, 2016

Activities Meeting

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

February 25 - 28

Outdoorama Booth

Contact Jim Telinda or Jim Aitkin
Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi

March 2, 2016

Activities Meeting

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



New columnist, that way! ->

(continued from page 1)

and one to two positions in the winter season. Proponents also state that for every 100,000 pounds of production they will dredge the bottom.

According to Baird, federal law requires a Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production pollution discharge permit for a facility of the proposed size of Harrietta (300,000 pounds of fish pooping in the same place). Fish poop and food go into the water, out comes phosphorus and suspended solids.

“The DNR is cut out of the picture,” said Baird, “because the employees vehemently oppose this project and have been ordered not to speak about it.” Pollution output includes phosphorus which causes algae blooms and blankets the substrate reducing bugs and their food sources. It also includes suspended solids which settle out. “Together they create the medium for the whirling disease worm.” Another concern is direct disease spread to wild fish, and the genetic contamination of escapement. “Google ‘fish disease’ and ‘fish farm,’ for more information said Baird. “These are problems that have all been documented.”

The trial process begins February 12, 2016. “We are asking for things that are pretty reasonable, no escapement, strongly monitored enforcement, protection against disease, no adverse water effects, financial responsibility on the operator *not* the taxpayers.” (Currently the operator receives the free river water, uses it, then discharges it without any responsibility.) The current proposal will harm the tourist economy, lower property values, and kill wild fish and their habitat.

A closed circuit hatchery farm can

be successfully done, said Baird. A wonderful example of this is the Platte River State Fish Hatchery. Baird also mentioned various pertinent upcoming bills in the Michigan legislature. “Our Department of Agriculture will be in charge of what goes into our lakes and streams. Those are the same folks who protected the folks who created the algae blooms in Lake Erie.” Go to www.anglersoftheausable.com for further information and to find out how to get involved.

“If they get legislation through...there are no limits...this can happen anywhere, anytime. If it happens on the Au Sable, then it can happen anywhere,” added Josh Greenberg, Anglers of the Au Sable board of directors member. “It will allow business to take the people’s fish and sell them and take them to farms and to kill the water.”

On a more upbeat note Greenberg said, “There are positive things happening on the river. We’ve been doing some good stuff. Lake St. Helen has a dam at the base - low tech. The worst thing that can happen on a trout stream in the spring is a flood. You can lose generations.” After working with the dam owners, who did not originally consider fishers, “It is now more regulated. It’s been a cooperative deal.”

Another positive project is the rehabilitation of the beaver dam area. “I don’t think I’d seen a turnaround so quick,” said Greenberg. “The fish are already moving back in!” Also, “Below the Mio Dam, there is a huge population of Brown Trout...they are reproducing naturally!”

In closing, “You couldn’t pick a worse spot for a fish hatchery,” said Greenberg. “If it effects that river, it will effect all rivers.” Spread the word.

Members On The Fly

Around The State



Bob Jurczyk volunteering the MFFC kid's fly tying booth at the Ultimate Fishing Show



The Evening Hatch in action.



MFFFC Business

Check out the Meanderings on page 6 ->

Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board Meeting November 11, 2015 at 7:30 pm

Rollcall

Present: Finstad, Freeburg, Oehring, Vanderhoof, Nowicki, Telinda, Doyle, Bocks
Absent: Hunter, Drinkwine
Guests: Mike Matuszewski, Jim Montagne

Approval of Minutes - Approved

Approval of Agenda - Approved

Officer Reports

President – *Finstad*

Condolences to the Feliu family with the passing of longtime club friend Oscar Feliu.

Treasurer – *Oehring*

Treasurer's report approved. New computer & software approved for Treasurer

Corresponding Secretary - *Vanderhoof*

All speakers lined up through the banquet.

Hatch - *Sybil Hunter*

No report

Website - *Harry Briggs*

Expo website is being updated.

Membership – *Nowicki*

Membership at 450, 100 have not paid for this year. Roster to be out in December

Events and Outings

Outings & Events Calendar Status Mike Doyle All events and outings currently have a date scheduled. Dates to be updated on the website ASAP.

New Business

Underwriting the production of GLC brochure – Mike Matuszewski approached the board with a request from the FFF Great Lakes Council for help with the production of their brochure.

Drinkwine replacement - Terry Drinkwine is stepping down from his At Large Director Position. Club bylaws require the board of directors to appoint a replacement. Jim Montagne volunteered to serve out the remainder of the term for this position.

Old Business

Club/School fly rod purchase status Rods, reels and line purchased. John Pinto will provide backing.

Visitor Comments: None

Roundtable

Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board Meeting December 9, 2015 at 7:30 pm

Rollcall

Present: Finstad, Freeburg, Oehring, Vanderhoof, Nowicki, Doyle, Bocks, Hunter
Absent: Telinda
Guests: Eric Center

Approval of Minutes - Approved

Approval of Agenda - Approved

Officer Reports

President – *Finstad*

Nothing to report

Vice President - *Freeburg*

Conservation Fund Chairman, Eric Center made changes to Conservation Funds Request Form. Deadline is now the day after the Expo, March 13, 2016. A line was added to delineate conservation vs. educational fund requests.

Treasurer - *Oehring*

Treasurer's report approved.

Corresponding Secretary - *Vanderhoof*

Speakers lined up through the banquet.

Hatch - *Sybil Hunter*

Submission deadline for Hatch moved to 10th of each month. This will accommodate Hatch distribution at activities meetings. Seeking a monthly columnist to start in January. Hatch seeking photo and written submissions.

Website - *Harry Briggs*

Nothing to report.

Membership - *Nowicki*

Presently 363 paid members. 98 previous members still need to sign up for this year.

Events and Outings

No new information at this time.

New Business

Matching Grant Request from Vanderhoof. Request to donate \$1000 to Anglers Of The AuSable for No Fish Poop matching grant drive.

MFFC Rods/Equipment - Chris Hunter sparked discussion regarding sale of old, Club school rods. Watch for sale 2016 sometime.

Old Business

Gokenbach Seminar results - email received verifying registration for attending board members.

Visitor Comments: None

Roundtable



2015 – 2016 Officers

President:

Dan Finstad
finsmich@yahoo.com

Vice President:

Scott Freeburg
MFFCClub@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary:

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Recording Secretary:

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Treasurer:

Kathy Oehring
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Immediate Past President:

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January Fly Of The Month

A Permit catching special!

Merkin Crab

By Todd A.Schotts



Merkin Crab



For January's fly of the month, we are heading south to the warmer waters. This is for all you saltwater guru's, or saltwater wannabe's, that head to warmer climates to chase Bonefish & Permit while rest of us are battling sub zero snowy weather. This fly is crusty and crabby; you won't need hot melted butter or crab cracking tools, but get ready for plenty of tight lines with the Merkin Crab.

This saltwater phenomenon was created by Del Brown, and guide Steve Huff, back when there wasn't much to offer in the way of flies for fishing Permit. Before the Merkin Crab, in the early 1970's, there was a fly called a "Popeye Jig," then came the "Puff", after that came the creation that Brown and Huff came up with, the "Merkin Crab." With this pattern the two designers routinely caught more Permit, setting world records; which up to that point was unheard. The most remarkable aspect of the Merkin Crab is that it changed saltwater fly fishing.

The main difference between the Puff and the Merkin, is that the Merkin looks more crab like. The Merkin has an oval body, and with the lead eyes is able to

dive to the bottom when you stop stripping in the fly. This feature is similar to the "Popeye Jig" and the fleeing of a natural crustacean.

For tying this crusty crab, they recommend tying it in various colors like light tan, brown, olive, pink and even lime green. Due to light conditions and bottom color, it is best to have an assortment. It is also recommended to tie smaller sizes, along with the standard sizes for your arsenal. This fly features a double monofilament weed guard, which is easily clipped off if conditions call for it. Another great tip is to *not* use glue or head cement when tying this fly. With Permits' incredible sense of smell, they will pick up the smell of the glue very easily.

From my research, you want to see Permit "tailing," cast in front of them, and strip back, but not a steady retrieve. This technique is the most effective way to use this fly. However you fish the pattern, you will be fishing one of the flies that holds the most records for catching Permit. Besides fishing Permit, this fly is a very important Bonefish and Striped Bass fly.

Until next month,
Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.

HOOK – Mustad 34007 or 7766, TMC 8115, or Gamakatsu wide gap in sizes 1 – 2/0

THREAD – 6/0 or 140 Denier Chartreuse, yellow, blue, brown or olive

TAIL – Wide, webby hackles (Whiting Buzzer Packs)

BODY – Small diameter yarn known as Rug Yarn or Trilobal Yarn

LEGS – White round rubber legs with red tips

EYES – Chromed, Black or Nickel weighted eyes sizes 3/16", 7/32" and 5/32"

WEED GUARD – 20 pound Mason Hard Mono (optional)



January Tyer Of The Month

Featured Member Tyer

It's all about the Bass

Banjo Minnow

For our January Tyer, I am bringing back an amazing professional tyer and fly designer, none other than Dan "Eggman" Walker. The fly he will be bringing us, is somewhat of a newer fly he created after last year's 2015 Smallmouth Outing. This fly is no knee slapping or boot kicking fly, but a bass fly fisher's dream. Let me introduce you to the Banjo Minnow Fly. The way Dan describes the results on this fly you won't be hearing sour notes, only the sweet music of tight lines.

Here is the fishing report on our tyer: 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 as a vendor selling flies and fly tying materials at fly fishing and Steelheader shows and for 25 years now. He mentioned that he mainly ties commercially for Steelhead Flies, but he also ties for Trout, Bass, Pike, Musky, Carp, and Saltwater. 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 fly that Dan is bringing us,

it was developed last spring after the Michigan Fly Fishing Club's Smallmouth Outing. In response to encountering bass in very shallow water, is why this fly was designed. The following weekend, the "Banjo Minnow" performed very well in Dan's secret location. Over the summer it worked well for small and Largemouth Bass, Rock Bass, Crappie, Bluegill, Pike and Carp. Dan mentions, when fishing this fly, do three short sharp strips followed by a pause.

So if you are a bass bum like myself, or heading to the Smallmouth Outing in May, this is one fly you should have in your boxes. Bring your vise, tools, and note taking material and get ready for some sweet sounding bobbin slinging for a great warm water fly.

TYING NOTES:

- *Wrap a fire orange thread base between the hook eye and the body.*
- *Glue a single eye flat on top, the back 1/3 of the eye should overlap and be glued to the chenille wraps.*
- *Clamp the hook bend so the weight of the hemostat and fly will press the forward shank down onto the flat eye.*
- *Use hemostats to clamp the fly while glue sets (bring them if you have them).*
- *Liquid Fusion Glue or any clear quick sitting glue should work to bend the hook shank slightly, hemostats would work*



HOOKS: *Straight eye #6 to #1 (I tie this fly mainly on Eagle Claw 254N #2 to 1/0 Bend the front 3/16 to 3/8 inch of the hook 10 degrees down toward the bend Saber s.e. dry #6 or any straight eye hook.)*

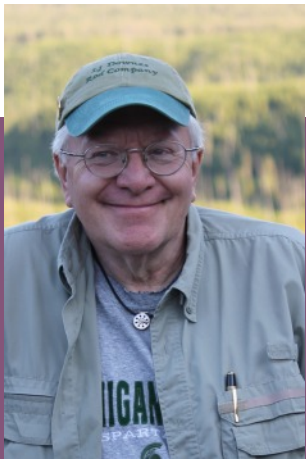
THREAD: *Body Chartreuse 140 or 210 darning*

THREAD: *Head Fire Orange Uni 6/0*

TAIL: *Marabou usually white but also try natural smoke colored turkey 3/4 to 3 inches long Tie this down 10 degrees around the bend*

BODY: *Pearl Cactus Chenille Medium or Large, put the turns on sparsely enough for Chartreuse to show through end the body 3/16 to 3/8 inch before the eye*

HEAD: *Single Eye roughly equal in diameter to hook gap (domed plastic eyes 1/4 to 1/2 dolls eyes also work)*



Welcome, you made it!



Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Fool

Al The Hackleman

Hello Winter, good to see you.

So that's about it for 2015. Winter awaits and welcomes us to its cold nights and blowing snow. The fishing, except for the true tough folks in our sport, is pretty much done until opening day of 2016, about 100 days away.

This is the time of year I enjoy a lot. It's the time to tie flies and prepare for the next fishing season.

I have to admit that I tie a lot of flies during the winter months. Now there are some folks that look at their fly boxes, make notes about missing flies and prepare a long list of flies to replace, with maybe a few new patterns to try for the next year. I am not quite that organized. My fly boxes are messes of different patterns, most of my boxes overlap with many of the same patterns being housed in many different boxes. I have tried to have boxes for different types of fishing, like Dry Fly Patterns, Wet Fly Patterns and such, but I must admit that does not work for me. Then I spent time making boxes labeled Spring, Early Summer, Late Summer, Fall and other notes like that. But in reality that did not work too well for me either. So now I mostly have boxes that have lots of patterns with not a lot of organization to them. I mix dry and wet and soft hackles with Klinkhammer patterns. I have a few streamers just in case, and I throw in a couple flymphs for good measure. So I cannot look into my boxes and tell you what is missing and what was used.

My lack of organization does not impact my enjoyment of tying some flies at all. My winter fly tying goes something like this:

What do I like to fish? Where are the materials? Let's get them tied and into boxes.

The reasons I enjoy winter fly tying are varied and numerous. I like sitting indoors warm, and listening to the snow blow around outside. I enjoy the fire in the fireplace and soft music on the radio. Mostly I enjoy reliving some of the fish of the previous year. I tie a soft hackle fly and remember the Brown Trout that took one like it on the South Branch of the Au Sable and how much fun it was to see and touch that fish. I move on to a flymph pattern that caught a nice fish on Soda Butte in Yellowstone Park. A streamer is next, along with the fish that I caught downstream on the Manistee River. It all comes back to say hello reminding me of that beautiful fall day Joyce and I fished and how that fish was my only catch of the day, but worth it anyway. Yes, lots of memories of nice fish, or the only fish, flood back while I tie new flies for the next season.

Other memories come back too...The laughter of seeing some buddies near the Lamar River and talking about which place and which fly would work best...thoughts of time shared with others fishing the Yellowstone River and wading just a bit too deep to slip a bit on the rocks but not float my hat...the long wade downstream on the North Branch that ended at the copper fisherman...memories of lots of lovely Brook Trout on a sparkling fall day shared with friends from the Michigan Fly Fishing Club...so many wonderful memories from last seasons fishing times.

And of course, there are the dreamed of plans for next season. More time spent on the upper Manistee River, much more time spent on the South Branch, some new spots that we want to try out on the lower Manistee River. In fact, plans that include just more time on the rivers in general with

some specific places and other spots that just seem to call out and tell me that fish reside there. Another time of fishing the Yellowstone Park area and maybe some new spots out there too. Lots of plans. Lots of thoughts. Lots of empty spots in fly boxes.

Let the wind and snow blow. Let the flies come off the vice and the boxes fill with new patterns and old. Maybe some old patterns tied with new colors. Maybe old patterns tied in different sizes. How about some old patterns tied the old way? Lots of opportunities for change and adjustments. Lots of chances for THE pattern that will catch fish all season and in all the rivers. Or maybe not.

And what patterns do I use the most? I must admit that I am a guy that mostly fishes patterns that are sort of older, more experienced patterns so to speak. Sort of like me, experienced. I prefer that term to "older" anyway. And what experienced patterns do I like? I like soft hackle flies in green and yellow. I do fish a PT soft hackle fly with success and one tied with peacock hurl catches fish for me too. I like olive and grey and dark green flymphs. I like some dry flies, mostly in the Adams style. I do find that the newer Klinkhammer patterns are great for emergers and I carry many of them with me all the time. For streamers, I like smaller patterns with just a bit of weight on them.

So get out your fly tying vice, find your materials and tie some flies. Sit and enjoy the memories, or make the plans to catch the one that got away last season. Let the wind blow and the snow accumulate, fill those fly boxes with lots of new stuff for next season. Make plans for fishing the rivers of your dreams. Fish some familiar comfortable spots, find some new spots, fish with friends and maybe meet new friends. And most of all, when you tie your own flies, save money.

Good luck and tight lines.

Al the hackleman



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events

Sign Up For MFFC's

Members School

The school is an all day event from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday February 13, 2016 and will be held at Northville High School.

Sign up for the Member's School is open and will continue through February 11, 2016. Please note that only dues paying members in good standing are allowed to attend the Member School. You can enroll as a student, administrator, or instructor by email to miketheflyguy@gmail.com or at club meetings. All club members are welcome to attend.

All communications regarding the school will be through email so it is important you provide an email address.

Our instructors are club members who are some of the Midwest's finest fly anglers. Many are FFF certified casting instructors, professional guides, avid fly

fishers, and they are eager to share their knowledge with other club members.

We offer two levels of instruction: Beginning and Advanced students. A Beginning Student is anyone who has not fly fished or has only fly fished a few times, is not thoroughly familiar with wading and fishing safety, and has not attended the Novice class in the past. Keep in mind, the Novice Class is a prerequisite for the Dick Shott New Member Outing at Wawasum.

An Advanced Student? Someone who has fly fished numerous times, has own equipment, is somewhat capable of reading the water and may not know what entomology is but knows the word starts with the letter "E," and has attended the Novice Class recently.

The chili cook off is open to six chefs with a special prize awarded to the winner.

School attendance, a continental breakfast, and lunch are provided at no cost to participants as is pop, water, tea and coffee throughout the day.

Contact Chris Hunter or Mike Doyle at club meetings or via email miketheflyguy@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Deadline Approaching

Conservation Grant Request

MFFC members be on the lookout for groups that need conservation or educational project funding. Please inform these groups that the 2016 MFFC Conservation Grant Request form can now be found on the MFFC website under the Conservation tab. Also, remind them the last day applications will be accepted is Sunday, March 13. If they, or you, have any questions or concerns regarding the grants contact Eric Center at ecenter4753@yahoo.com.

February

Speakers

John Pinto and Rich Knoles will present the salt water committee report and a photo essay on saltwater fishing and destinations.

Noted Special

Recognition

Linda Verona is the new Club Library Assistant. Please check out the library and say hi. Thanks Linda!



We had a great time. Thanks for the hospitality, and thank you very much for the club's generous donation! I wish I lived closer. You have a great bunch of members.

-Tom Baird, Anglers of the Ausable

Michigan Fly Fishing Club
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