



The Evening

# Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

January 2018

## Three Nymphing Techniques

By Sybil Hunter

Efficient & Effective Nymphing of the Au Sable & Manistee was the topic of the MFFC January guest speaker, Dennis Nelson from Gates Lodge in Grayling. His presentation outlined the Three Major Foundations for nymphing: Suspension; French, Spanish & New Zealand; and Polish & Czech styles.

Suspension Systems. "This is my least favorite method - so much is going on," said Nelson. "Nymphing is about manageable slack. Fly fishing is about line management," Nelson said. When suspension fishing, "I prefer the tungsten putty. In the deeper holes, I try to avoid it. There's very little feel to this kind of set up." Airlocks. "These are my favorite floats. It does not crimp your leader," said Nelson. "I use suspension systems in the Manistee."

Basic Suspension System Concepts & Techniques. 1. Use an indicator to help manage slack; 2. Use weight; 3. Use a longer, faster rod; 4. 20" of 20 lb. Chameleon or 5.5" of 15 lb. Ultragreen, and 4x-6x Fluorocarbon tippet; 5. Set the line one and a half times the water depth from float to first fly. "You never want to go two times the depth of the water," said Nelson. "It's hard to get that much of a rig in the same current."



Time & Place To Use Place Indicators. Nelson suggests use: 1. In deeper holes over the angler's waist; 2. In multiple flow conditions; 3. In colder temps (yet still greater than 20 degrees as things get icy and messy); 4. In longer, slower runs; 5. In multi-braded currents or unreachable seams.

When asked how to determine the water depth of a run, Nelson said to start 10 feet before the hole, ting the rig through about three times to get a feel for the depth, let the hole rest 15 minutes or so, then use that knowledge to fish it.

Hopper Dropper Time & Place. Nelson advises, use "when you want more stealth...for a deep hole that has been fished frequently." 1. Before, during and after a hatch; 2. When fish are spooky; 3. In high sun; 4. In shallow slow water; 5. When boat fishing. "This

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## MFFC Calendar



**February 7, 2018**

**Speaker Meeting**

**Speaker: TBD**

**Topic: TBD**

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

**February 28, 2018**

**Activities Meeting**

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

**March 7, 2018**

**Activities Meeting**

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

**March 10 & 11, 2018 MFFC Expo**

**March 21, 2018**

**Speaker Meeting**

**Speaker: Mark Hendricks**

**Topic: Casting**

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

**April 11, 2018 Speaker Mtg**



# MFFFC

*Continued from page 1*

is not so good on the Au Sable,” said Nelson.

Do. Nelson said: “You gotta allow a sacrificial drift;” “You wanna keep it light and precise. The rest is gonna be done controlling the rest of your float;” “Adjust the weight and depth. Bob it through the first time to adjust;” and “You have to set on everything.”

Don’t. Nelson said: Don’t hurry, “Take the time to feel that snap, you gotta feel what’s going on and if you don’t, you’re not gonna learn;” and “Don’t over mend.”

French, Spanish & New Zealand Style. Use longer leader and a longer rod. “All of these fish are sight fishing,” said Nelson. “There’s alot more opportunity for sight fishing on the Au Sable and Manistee then most people would believe. Cast above the fish. The big ones are easier to see and less spooky, believe it or not. Read the currents. Allow tight line all the way through multiple currents.”

Concept. Nelson said use: 1. In shallow streams; 2. Mostly for sight fishing; 3. Longer leader and light tippet; 4. A medium flex rod; 5. In a low & slow upstream approach; and 6. With little or no line floating. “Have control of the whole drift,” said Nelson. “You don’t set when he moves, you set when he moves back. I typically don’t like to go over three feet. It’s a system for a very precise moment. I use this very, very rarely.”

Time & Place . “Use it in the springs of the Holy Waters during spring,” said Nelson, “when everyone else is wading down stream with a grasshopper.”

Czech & Polish Style. “It is very effective on the Au Sable,” said Nelson. “The whole idea is a 0.5g heavy weighted fly - it’s all in the fly.” Rio leaders are recommended, with indicator tippet. “That little piece of string will give you all sorts of information. It’s a very short controlled drift.”

In The Pink Yarn Demo Nelson said, “You don’t want drag and resistance. Pile that line down into the water. Power it into the water. You’re gonna have a kinda hard entrance. As Speaker Meeting, TBD - February 7, 2018

soon as it hits the water keep that rod tip up. Keep a slight bend in the line as the rod tip follows the drift, eight feet max,” Nelson said. “When the fish takes, drop the rod down and to the side. It’s a quick fight that way. It’s all about control. It’s very much instinctive sets. You are not dragging that fly across the bottom, you are letting the current do it’s thing.”

Concepts & Techniques. “Presenting a dead drift,” said Nelson, “make it short, stealthy and precise. This style was made popular by the Czech and Polish Olympic Fly Fishing Team. You aren’t gonna catch a monster fish, but you’re gonna catch multiple fish.” Use a weighted nymph. “You can present the fly in varying structure; this is a more versatile nymphing style.”

Time & Place. Nelson says to use: 1. In a multi-braded stream; 2. At depths around the angler’s waist or lower; 3. With little or no wind; 4. In turbulent, fast water; 5. Not when you are casting a shadow on the water; 6. In pockets; 7. Under structure; and 8. Not when it’s so cold there is ice on your line.

Do. According to Nelson: 1. Be slow and precise; 2. Only keep 6”-12” of fly line out; 3. Make an upstream presentation; 4. Let the fly tell you when to move the rod down stream.

Dont. Nelson said: 1. Cast a shadow; 2. Drag on the bottom; 3. Have too much taper or tippet; or 4. Lay the line on the water.

You are “tight lining,” said Nelson. “Use two sizes up for that reel. You want to be balanced...so you feel every little tick...keep your elbows in...It’s about keeping everything tight.”

Flies. Barbless. “The Green Caddis Pupa is my favorite fly,” said Nelson. “I do crazy hot colors. I typically fish a 12 to 14 for the Czech system.” The Frenchie with Epoxy Coat. “That fly drops faster than anything. Having a big sleek, low profile fly” for Czech nymphing is best. “Just by raising and dropping, you got that fishing motion. It’s very successful.”

Around The State

## Members On The Fly



*Spence tying with Bill Shannon at the West Michigan Fly Fishing Show, Jan 13-14, passing out fliers for our Expo, and tying wet flies for the kids.*



*Garage Saling at The Club*



*Catching the infamous Lipp Trout*



# MFFFC Business

## Minutes

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board Meeting  
November 8, 2017

1. Call to order
2. Present: Freeburg; Vanderhoof; Bada; Bocks; Nowicki; Strachan; Selinger; Oehring; Summers; Finstad
3. Approval of Minutes with amendments:  
Typographical errors enumerated and corrected  
History of the Au Sable at Michigan History Center, Lansing  
Bill Shannon will attend the West Michigan Fly Show
4. Approval of Agenda  
Mike Matuszewski attending to report on audit
5. Officer's Reports
  - \* President - *Freeburg*  
Scott will procure a long cable to run the file at the Dec 6 meeting.  
Damaged VGA cable for school to be replaced at \$24
  - \* Vice President - *Vanderhoof*  
No report
  - \* Treasurer - *Nowicki*  
Alpha Graphics, Canton, MI, is MFFC's new printer  
John Kuderick, CPA will do MFFC tax return  
Audit presented by Matuszewski accepted by The Board
  - \* Corresponding Secretary - *Bocks*  
Speaker Update: January & Summer meeting speaker assignments open  
Expo speakers confirmed  
Hatch Update: Composition and printing going well
  - \* Membership - *Bada*  
360 active current members; 120 members have not paid their 2017-2018 membership dues  
The membership fee at this late date is \$40
6. Events & Outings  
West Michigan Fly Fishing Show: several speakers featured, MFFC & other clubs support this show
7. Fly Fishing Movie: an excellent fly fishing film will be shown at Clarenceville cafeteria on Dec 6 promptly at 7:00 pm. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Announcements at 6:30 pm.
8. New Business
  - \* Steelhead Outing  
Bada detailed proposed outing on the Muskegon; scheduled 3/22-3/25 at Old Dam Inn with a Club advance of \$800. Boats and guides will be available at additional participant cost. White River & Pere Marquette Rivers are also within driving distance of the lodge.
  - \* Membership School  
To be held 2/17/18 at Clarenceville **High** School, across Middlebelt from the Junior High.
  - \* Rod Building  
Wrapping machines were donated to the Club's Rod Building Committee. Purchase of 6 epoxy machines at \$360 total were approved by The Board.
9. Old Business  
No old business
10. Visitor Comments
11. Adjournment at 8:53.

Speaker Meeting, TBD - February 7, 2018



### 2017 – 2018 Officers

#### President:

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# Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Todd Schotts

## Fly of the Month

To start this year out, we will be heading south to the country that has the Andes Mountains to the east, and the Pacific Ocean to the west...yes, we are heading to Chile. This is where I found a great saltwater fly pattern and an amazing fly tier while I was searching the internet for another Fly of the Month. So, this month's fly is for all of you saltwater gurus that migrate to warmer climates to chase the powerful dancing fish of the ocean flats while rest of us are up here in the frozen tundra. After reading about this fly, and seeing the appearance, I couldn't help but make this the first fly of 2018 and have this month's fly go totally "Sexy." Yes, you read that correctly (but don't worry, I will keep it G rated). You could say this fly is "to sexy for my tippet" or "to sexy for your fly box," but "not too sexy for multiple tight lines." So this month's fly is the "Sexy Crab" by Pedro Pablo Yañez Duran.

The creator of this fly, Pedro Pablo Yañez Duran aka PeterXtremefly, is from Chile. He started fly-fishing when he was 10 years old. Then at the age of 11, he started to tie flies from just looking at magazines and watching fly-fishing TV shows. Like most of us when Pedro started tying, he started out with the famous Woolly Buggers. Then from there he started to create his own style of flies. A few years later, after seeing big flashy saltwater patterns for the first time, his passion for saltwater flies emerged. He worked with tying masters like Steve Farrah, Bob Popovic, Bob Veverkas, and many more. In 2004, Pedro started to tie flies as a commercial tier. In 2011 he created

"Xtremefly." He also collaborated with tying publications and contributed to the book "Fly Patterns by Fishing Guides." A couple of Pedro's other famous flies include the "Micro Tarantula Crab" and the "Perminator."

Pedro mentioned he made this month's fly many years ago, but never really gave a time frame. What he wanted to achieve was a crab looking fly with extremely resistant materials that kept its natural look. One other thing when he was designing this fly for, was to have full movement, yet still have a solid structure. I feel he accomplished this with his final design of this fly. When putting eyes and claws on, you put them on like you would do with other crab patterns. The material of Deadly Dazzle Fibers to tie them in uses the folding method obtaining more volume with less material.

When tying it in, make a few less wraps and use your fore finger and thumb; pinch the butt ends top to bottom and then side to side to equally distribute the fibers 360 degrees around the hook shank. To trim the material, he recommends using a cardboard cutter blade to give a natural shape, but don't trim the fibers with a straight cut. Otherwise that will make the fly look unnatural. And when you get ready to trim the Enrico Puglisi Crustaceous Brush, make sure you trim it in a "V" shape. Throughout the tying process he uses a lot of Clear Cure Goo type of product to aid in durability. Pedro mentions that for tying a successful fly, make sure you match the color of the fly with the bottom of the local watersheds.

When fishing this fly, if you want a fly pattern to cover a few different species of fish, this would be the fly pattern, as it is great for Bonefish, Permit, Redfish, and Stripped Bass. Fish this fly pattern where crabs are present. He mentions to make long and slow retrieves, followed by some occasional short and fast strips.

## Sexy Crab



**HOOK** – Daiichi X472 or similar long shank hook

**THREAD** – Beige or Tan 140 Denier or 6/0

**WEIGHT** – Brass eyes nickel black large (3/16)

**ROSTRUM** – Deadly Dazzle Fibers, brown

**CLAWS** – Magnum Zonker Strips, ginger, brown barred ginger

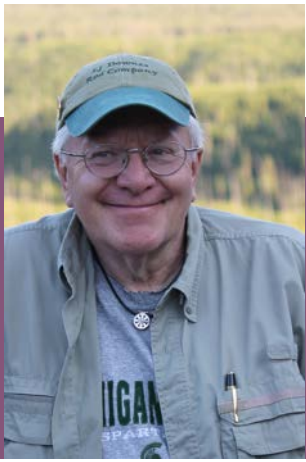
**EYES** – 3 mm red glass bead on 3-inch piece of 60lb mono

**ANTENNAE** – Centipede legs, tan, medium

**BODY** – Enrico Puglisi Crustaceous Brush, 3 tones

**RESIN** – Clear Cure Goo or similar

So hopefully you will now get your "Sexy" on at the vise and tie up a few "Sexy Crabs," especially if your heading to warmer climates during the frigid northern winter. If you want to check out more of his flies, make sure you go to "Xtremefly" or go to Facebook "PeterXtremefly." Until next month, Tight Lines and Snazzy flies.



# Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Guy-d

Al Haxton

## Plan For A Weekend Fishing

It's coming into the Fly Fishing Show time of year. That always makes me happy and sort of makes me think of things that I might need for the upcoming fishing season. I like to think about the upcoming season and what I may need to replace, update, or how I just need to buy a new gadget to use on the rivers.

So let's talk about what is needed for a good weekend of fly fishing. In the past 30 years things have changed a bit and while some things have upgraded, other items have been totally replaced with new and better equipment for our use.

We all have our favorite type of fly rod to use. I can remember when I was first coached by Bud Crudder about buying fly rods. Now Bud carried many rods in his car all the time. When Bud and I first started to fish together I was using two piece rods and found them to be fine. After some shared experiences with Bud I started to agree with him that three or four piece rods were certainly more packable and transportable, making them more fun if travel was on the agenda. Since then, I think almost all of my fly rod purchases have been multiple piece rods. And no matter the material used for the rod, whether it's fiberglass, graphite or bamboo, the multiple piece rod is the rod of first choice. So consider a multi piece rod if you are thinking about new rods for this season.

When I first got into fly fishing everyone wore a vest. There were many manufacturers and styles of fishing vests and I admit that I had a few. Then I remember at one of our club's garage sale evenings, buying a used side pack from Al Bullock. Now Al told me that he had enjoyed the pack he had for sale, but felt he needed something a bit larger to carry more fly boxes and other stuff. I bought that side pack and started the next season with it. Frankly I loved that darn thing. It carried a few boxes of flies and had room for some spools of tippet along with spots to attach zingers with other needed accessories. Over a couple years I found that the only issue was that it was sort of like wearing a box that did not flex even a bit. So after a few years I found another that I liked better. That started the side pack craze

for me. The side pack I use now is probably my third or fourth one, and I like it a lot. It is light weight, carries enough flies to make me think before I load it and has lots of space for leaders and tippet material, it has a spot to attach a net, it has numerous spots to attach other needed items - it fills all my needs.

Another new item is the front pack. Joyce and I have a couple front packs and enjoy them a lot. We find these are a nice change from our side packs if we are just going to fish for a short while. We have both gone through a couple of front packs, more from finding that the first ones were so big we overloaded them. The packs we use now are a bit smaller and make us think before we load them. We now have to consider what flies we might need and how many of them we will need to carry. It sort of makes us feel like we are educated about fishing conditions.

I also now use a lanyard all the time. Lanyards have also gone through some improvements and changes during the years. My current lanyard has a much improved slip attachment at the neck so it will not hang me if I happen to stumble into a tree limb. It carries a couple of small fly boxes that carry my basic load of flies, one box for dries and one box for wet flies. I also have a nipper attached to the lanyard, some dry fly floatant and some wet fly sink stuff. When I really fish light I use my lanyard and maybe one fly box either in my pocket or on a hanger around my neck. Now that is really fishing light, but it is also a lot of fun. When we fish out west, there are times we wade wet and carry our lanyards and that's it. Talk about getting into the trout stream fast.

Of course there are many items that we all carry every time we are on the stream. A nipper is one of these items and its always needed. I can remember when first getting into fly fishing looking at nippers that cost a few bucks and asking myself why anyone would pay dollars for something that is basically a nail trimmer from the drug store. Oh my, how foolish was I back then. I found out why nippers are far superior to nail trimmers. We now have many options on nippers.

From the top of the line special color nippers to the plain everyday style, there are so many nipper ideas available to us that it sometimes boggles my mind. And while I must admit that Joyce and I both have some of those "top of the line" models, I must also admit that we don't carry them as often as we should because we have nippers already attached to our side packs, front packs and lanyards. We have numerous nippers with us all the time. Besides nippers, we all carry leaders and tippet materials. Again, there are many ways to carry these essentials and there are more ways invented all the time. Now there are even tippet spools that have cutters included with them. For leaders I still enjoy the old fashioned leader wallet. I can carry a couple dozen of my leaders and they are safe in my side pack while I am in the river. If I don't carry my side pack I have a couple of leaders in a small bag that I carry in a pocket of my shirt. One other item we all use without thought is a zinger. Zingers have become a very important item for our use when fishing. Years ago I probably had one zinger with my nipper attached. Now I carry a few attached to my side pack, a couple more on my front pack and a couple available for use when I just use my lanyard and wade wet. They are important and needed and a great way to keep things close, but able to keep them flexible when needed. And I find that the zingers that are available today are far better than the ones of years ago. The older ones seemed to last a couple seasons, but the new are good for many seasons of fishing. A nice improvement.

With the Fly Show season upon us its time to sit and contemplate our fishing needs for this coming season and beyond. Spend some time thinking about what worked and what did not work well last year. Look at some catalogs and maybe some websites. Talk with fishing buddies and other club members and develop a list. And plan to fish more than last year. One really fun way to be at a Fly Show is to sign up to work at the MFFC Midwest Fly Fishing Exposition. Sign up for a couple of work times and enjoy seeing all the attendees and sharing the fun with other MFFC members. Look for Joyce and I there, we will be working and shopping too. Tight lines.



# Michigan Fly Fishing Club

John Pinto

## Sand In My Shoe

There I was...I had landed in Managua, met up with my host Steve Snyder and his pals Ken Nelson and John Skiffington, attended a party thrown in our honor and was awakened the next morning by a rooster crowing in the backyard behind the hotel. Day One in Nicaragua and I had already seen a guy driving an ox cart down the very busy Masaya Highway while talking on a cell phone. I had also witnessed two police officers pushing their car that was out of gas. We were flying over to the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua around Noon when Steve suggested we go to the U.S. Embassy. He heard a story about two gringos who were kidnapped near Bluefields – where we were going - and thought we should find out the validity of this story and to give our passport numbers to Embassy personnel.

We were escorted from the lobby of the Embassy to an office occupied by an Officer named Nancy Nelson. I remembered how she looked like my old high school librarian with her hair in a bun and thick glasses. Nancy took our names and passport numbers then told us the two Americans who were kidnapped in Bluefields were drinking a bit too much at a local bar and were hitting on some local ladies. The brother of one of the ladies entered the bar with some of his amigos and didn't like the manner in which his sister was being addressed. They pulled a knife, forced the two gringos into their pick-up truck and drove to small house out in the "bush." As the story goes, they all began to drink more, starting singing both Nicaraguan and American songs until all in the party passed out. The two gringos

Activities Meeting, - March 7, 2018

awoke before their hosts and walked back to Bluefields asking directions along the way.

Nancy was a wealth of information regarding the Atlantic coast culture, which is mainly Caribe people, Jamaicans, Garifunas and Miskito Indians. She said to use common sense and not to flash a lot of money around. She also made arrangements for us to have dinner on Saturday night with Rayfield Hudson, the Governor of the South Atlantic Autonomous Region (R.A.A.S.) and who lived in Bluefields, the Capitol of the region.

Ahhh, Rayfield Hudson...It seems that during the 1982 "free" elections, the Sandinistas asked the voters in the R.A.A.S. who their candidate was going to be. They were told Antonio Riviera. Six weeks prior to the election Antonio went missing, was never seen again and the Sandinista candidate won the election.

The voters of the R.A.A.S. ran James Gordon in the 1986 election. Six weeks prior to election day James went missing. The Sandinistas won again!

In 1990 the voters of the R.A.A.S. informed the Sandinistas that they were not running a candidate. The Sandinistas were thrilled and expected a slam dunk on election day. Election day came and all the voters of the R.A.A.S. wrote in their secret candidate who won the governorship in a landslide. His name was Rayfield Hudson, a local from the nearby Kukra Hill Settlement north of Bluefields.

Now the only problem was that Rayfield had moved to Miami in 1980, was working as a car mechanic at Sears Roebuck and knew nothing about the election. He received a phone call and was told he had been elected governor of the R.A.A.S. and should probably move back to Nicaragua. This he did – figuring it was a better gig than changing spark plugs and oil at Sears. He remained governor of the R.A.A.S. for the next sixteen years.

Caught

## Reading The Hatch



Rayfield bought dinner at the South Atlantic hotel in Bluefields, we traded many stories, had lots of laughs and he went so far as to let us use the "government" panga and captain for our fishing over the next week.

The final chapter of this saga occurred when I was on a business trip to Tallin, Estonia in 1999 and met some U.S. Embassy people in a restaurant. They invited me to the Embassy the next day, I went and met more people including...Nancy Nelson! Same hair bun and glasses. Her time was up in Nicaragua and the U.S. Foreign Service transferred her to first Bulgaria and then Estonia. She remembered me from her time in Nicaragua and said since she was from Minnesota the cooler climes of Estonia were more to her liking.

"Nicaragua was just too hot," she explained.

We really do live in a very small world!



# Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Attendees Needed

## Member School

### Member School

**February 17, 2018**

**9:00 - 3:45; Lunch Provided**

**Clarenceville HIGH School**

(Across the street from where we meet at the Middle School)

The school is FREE for Members (i.e. you must be a paid member to attend)

We have two tracks for students; beginner and advanced. Beginner has more of an emphasis on equipment and knots, while Advanced, focuses more on entomology. All students will participate in casting and fly-tying. All classes are taught by members who have volunteered their time and expertise to our Club. The school is limited to approximately 60 members and the Advanced class is nearly full. Please contact Chris Hunter by phone (734-233-8025) or email (chunter@bauerhunter.com) to sign up.

Welcome

## New Members

Welcome new members! Douglas Vernon of Wixom; Bob Gronelvelt of Elk Rapids; Ken Lootens of Sterling Heights; Louis Preston of Northville; Salvatori Desanto of Livonia; Sam Lower of Dexter; Charles B. Hughes of Waterford; Jennifer Rumschlag-Mejia of Howell; Douglas Carlson of Clarkston; Nelson Dennis of Grayling; David Buchel of Chelsea; and Paul Washington of Dearborn.

Activities Meeting, - March 7, 2018

## Historical Reprint

### STEELHEADING AT FLAT ROCK

The Huron River witnessed a display in early winter of applied knowledge, ability, honed skills and finesse... ending in undoubtable achievement of the current record! Let me tell you...

A perfect cast rolled through the cold air ... the thin strand of tippet split-shotted to the bottom.

The tap-tap-tapping of the fancy fly precisely placed and flirting with the bottom. There was the momentary lull, that infinite delay... the hook-set: ... triggered as fast as an eye-blink.

The happening was so quick, so fast, that it was memory as it happened... an image, thrust on the mind.

The resistance transmitted to the wading angler, fighting with bowed rod, again and again displaying his consummate skill. Rippling water and roiling water show across the river surface as the prize is now brought near.

Composed, confident, with complete aplomb the angler reaches out and lifts the leader by hand.

His arm raises almost to eye level, that his companion might better see. The victor smiles... with befitting modesty he declines the opportunity to commit the scene to camera image.

Continuing to hold the prize high, he hesitates intentionally, magnanimously, allowing the magnificent specimen, this freshwater clam, to release-its hold and plop back in the water.

'The Evening Hatch' April 2, 1980 Author unknown



Chris virtually on the Au Sable

The River That Changed The World exhibit sponsored by TU, MFFC & others, at The Michigan History Museum in Lansing, runs through summer 2018. Go Visit!





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