



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

January 2020

Return Of The Sandwich Dubber

By Sybil Hunter

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club welcomed back John Satkowski as our January guest speaker. Satkowski donated flies, a presentation frame of flies and an artisan snake fly that took 10 hours to sculpt with his Dremel, for our next raffle. The story behind the snake? Satkowski said when he was little he used to grab water snakes all the time and get bit. Then he saw a Pike eat one. Voila. 10 hours later - sculpted foam snake fly. Satkowski also has an art degree.

He started the night with a smaller stinger hook wired on to a size 2 hook, housing a bead in the front quarter and a rattle in the back quarter.

"I got sick of trying a Chub imitation," said Satkowski. "It's hard to duplicate." None of the materials have that flash. So what did he create? His latest Pike fly that can be downsized for Bass or other smaller fish. "This is the single hook version. I actually submitted a commercial version." He said during his tying demo. "This fly is made with one dubbing loop."

He joked about Jack Gartside's "secret stuff" (cigarette butts), and said



his new fave is Ripple Ice Fiber. "Speaking of Jack Gartside....It's kinda gross but if you take your finger and kind rub it along the side of your nose..." Satkowski used this approach to enhance the ability to stack fibers in his dubbing sandwich without it sticking to his fingers.

With the fibers all packed, he took two wraps around his finger..."You need a really large dubbing loop." Said Satkowski. "If you're doing a loop... with a bunch of crap in it..use dubbing wax..put a decent amount on it. And don't spin (the loop) too much, because eventually that thread will break. As you wrap it, it turns into a spring and creates tension; it will eventually come back down. "I wrap it as taught as I possibly
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MFFC Calendar



January 22, 2020
Activities Meeting
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

February 5, 2020
Speaker Meeting
Speaker: Carl Heuter
Topic: Why MI Fishing Is
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

February 19, 2020
Activity Meeting
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

March 14 & 15, 2020
Midwest Fly Fishing Expo
Macomb Community College
Sports & Expo Center
14500 E 12 Mile, Warren



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can in each successive wrap,” said Satkowski. “It’s gonna look funny until you get a feel.”

The big loops trap fibers, so used a wire brush to pick them out. “Make sure you do that on all sides to make sure nothing is trapped anywhere.”

“Are those your Harbor Freight brushes?” Frank asked.

“Yep. Definitely. \$1.99,” said Satkowski.

“The thing I kinda like about it [the fly] is it’s not one color in there.” Satkowski said to “match whatever is in the water.” For example, for Shads use yellow with a touch of blue on the sides. Have dark backs and lighter bellies. Make sure to separate the fibers ahead of tying them in.

“It [the sandwich looped dubbing] kinda creates a kind of biliousness in the water. I created this because I don’t want the Steelhead guys to have all the fun,” said Satkowski. “I brush it really good to make a nice little ship of a head.” Made with one loop, it looks good in the water because it has so much movement.

“It [fishing] is not about spots. It’s about figuring out what the fish want,” Satkowski added, “but there is no magic fly.”

“I usually get asked if I use markers,” Satkowski said.

“Do you use markers?” someone asked.

“Markers don’t magically make stuff work,” said Satkowski.

“I use Crazy Glue,” said Satkowski. “Have you ever used Zap-a-Gap and put it on foam and watched it smoke...it’s probably like some kind of cancer or something.”

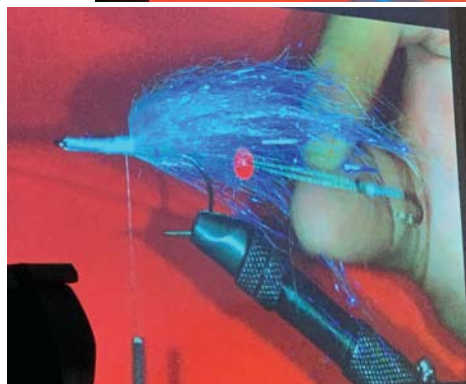
“It (this fly) is a pretty good fly to use pretty much anywhere,” said Satkowski. “The hook in the back will save you

time.” Remember to upsize for Musky.

The key is to fish this fly in the upper third of the water column. “You want them looking up at it. Fish aren’t stupid. They will jet out and get something and go back,” said Satkowski.

“I have my flies and I have my Big Boy job. I can go home, sit, and just tie and everything goes away for awhile. It’s probably why nobody’s dead.”

Satkowski is a professional designer for Rainy’s Premium Flies. He is a J. Stockard Fly Fishing Pro Tyer. He has been featured at Franken Fly, Flymen Fishing Company, among others, and of course can be found at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo.



Members

On The Fly



This picture was taken August 9, 2019 Madison River Montana pausing while reading the water with confidence that there are some nice fish holding in this stretch of water. Well equipped with my Sage RPL+ 9 1/2' ft. 6wt. 2pc. and a SA systems2 67 reel. -Richard M Gosiewski





MFFFC Business



Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Board Meeting December 11, 2019

Rollcall

Present: Nowicki; Oehring; Niemi; S. Hunter; Selinger; Bada; Mayes; Vanderhoof
Absent: Strachan; Summers
Guests: P. Albertson; Bill Shannon

Approval of Minutes - Approved

Approval of Agenda - Approved

Officer's Reports

President - Nowicki

-Shannon, as head of this year's audit committee, offered to answer any questions about the recent audit. No questions were asked by the board. Shannon was thanked for the committee's efforts.

-Albertson presented a description of the proposed conservation Corner. The board agreed to proceed and hold the first group at January's Activity meeting.

-A lengthy discussion was held on the information we received from the Michigan State government on the need to file for a license to hold raffles as a 501c3 organization. Filing for tax exempt status was not an issue. Information on raffles indicated that additional licenses and administrative work was necessary if we want to continue raffles going forward. It was agreed to halt the raffles at this time to seek additional information on necessary steps. Subsequent to the BOD meeting, info was obtained, and the board agreed to obtain the necessary licensure and set up the required administrative reporting.

Vice President - Strachan

Nothing at this time.

Treasurer - Oehring

Treasurer's report accepted as submitted.

Corresponding Secretary - Hunter

-Our new Expo website is on schedule to launch 1/15/20.

-Board agreed to hold another IF4 movie presentation in April 2020.

-Detailed info and pricing to 50th year pins and patches will be provided in January.

Membership - Niemi

Current: 325 active paid members
Based on December member list, Constant Contact list will be updated.

Events & Outings

2020 Expo: Mayes stated all chairpersons for the expo have been identified. A meeting was held at the Macomb Center the week of 12/8. A new

layout was designed, to provide 7 additional booth locations.

New Business

ETIX: Mayes explained about meeting with ETIX, an internet sales firm. They could be used for Expo. Additional discussions to be held.

REI: is interested in having MFFC present an Intro to Fly Fishing class, per Craig Summers. Additional info to be provided in January.

Old Business

None

Visitor Comments: See above.

Adjournment: 9:36 p.m.

AmazonSmile Helps MFFC

Do you buy stuff from Amazon? If so, why not sign up for Amazon Smile and let it donate cash to the Michigan Fly Fishing Club.

AmazonSmile is a website operated by **Amazon** with the same products, prices, and shopping features as **Amazon.com**. The difference is that when you shop on **AmazonSmile**, the **AmazonSmile** Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Here's how to shop with AmazonSmile:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
3. Choose a charitable organization to receive donations, or search for the charity of your choice (Michigan Fly Fishing Club is there).
4. Select your charity
5. Start shopping!
6. Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. You must be purchasing your items from smile.amazon.com in order for the Club to receive the donations.



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January Fly Of The Month

Skip Morris'

Foam Predator

By Todd Schotts

Happy New Year to everyone!! Hopefully everyone was on the Nice List and got some amazing fly fishing or fly tying items for Christmas. I want to give a big **THANK YOU** to Chris Hunter for filling in for me last month; he did a wonderful job, thank you Chris. My apologies to the membership for not being able to fulfill last month's column.

Now for this month fly pattern, it has been a favorite of mine for quite a few years now. I first saw this pattern tied by the late Chris Helm. Chris's version was slightly different version of the original pattern developed by Skip Morris. The original design intention was to catch Trout with a dragonfly nymph, it then developed into one of the favorite patterns for Bass & Panfish. The fly I am talking about is the "Foam Predator" by Skip Morris.

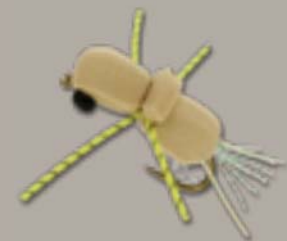
Here is the fishing report on Skip Morris. Skip Morris runs a family operation. Skip does the tying and writing; his wife Carol does the photography/video and artwork for his flies. They reside in Olympic Peninsula where he mentions the fishing opportunities are abundant with the many rivers, lakes, and salt water accesses. Skip has been tying well over 40 years, wrote 18 books on fly tying and fly fishing, has four DVD's, multi videos on UTube, and over 250 articles on fly fishing and tying. Plus add in all of those mentions, he was

also a host, amongst others, for three years on Fly Fish TV Magazine. Back in 2013, Skip was our Speaker for the Clubs Banquet. Even more fun — a few of us got to go fishing (*actually take Skip & Carol fishing*). I was in the group that was going to take them to Bishop Lake, but Mother Nature had a different idea. A few of us actually fished, until the heavy rains and cold set in as our esteemed guest arrived at about the same time. Instead of fishing, we had a picnic sort of, and huddled around the grill to stay warm. I do remember Skip mentioning that he really wanted to be on the lake with his Predator Fly Pattern. I did reassure him that it has been a successful fly out there. Then in 2016, Skip and Carol both came back to join our esteemed lineup of Midwest Expo Guest Speakers.

Skip's dragonfly nymph can be fished on top of the water, or with a full sinking or intermediate line to be fished under the surface. From there, as Skip mentions in his video, Chris Helm did some slight adjustments to this fly and started using it as a Panfish and Bass fly pattern. I know from talking with Chris when he was alive, that this was his go to pattern for panfish! With that, Skip added in the changes to his pattern to have it become a very popular Panfish and Bass fly. I know I have tied all three versions, both of Skip's versions plus Chris Helms' version. All three patterns have proven to me many, many tight lines.

The style we will visit is the modern day version of Skip Morris's pattern. One thing to remember, when tying this pattern use 2mm closed cell foam. It was mentioned in Skip's video that craft store foam sheets are softer than the foam in fly shops. That doesn't mean you cannot

Foam Predator



Newer version



Original Version

- HOOK:** Daiichi 1550 10 – 4
- THREAD:** 6/0 or 3/0 – color to match foam
- TAIL #1:** UV Pearl Krystal Flash
- BODY:** 2mm foam
- TAIL #2:** white rubber stands medium
- ABDOMEN:** UV dubbing to contrast with foam color
- EYES:** Black med or small
- LEGS:** Medium either barred or solid rubber legs

use the craft store foam, but just to be aware of that difference. When I tie these using craft store foam, I apply some Sally Hanson's on the back of the foam to make it a bit stronger. The major change from the original is the tail material. It went from no

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January Featured Tye

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tail material to crystal flash and white rubber legs. The white rubber legs are optional, but take it from me; you will want it on there. It adds that much more movement in the water. The other trick that is mentioned is to trim the foam down on the front before you pull it back over the eyes. That way the mono eyes will be able to be more visible. Finally with the legs in front, Skip uses barred rubber legs on his patterns, but I have tied and fished both with barred and solid legs with no difference. It is your preference and the fish's preference.

This fly is unique because it is just as deadly fishing it on top of the water as it is below the surface. Yes that's right a foam fly underwater! With the two sets of rubber legs on the fly, it adds so much to fishing this fly. For on surface fishing, the best way to fish this fly is with a hard plop in the water, and let the fly sit for 15 to 20 seconds, then a full fast strip, let it set, and then a small strip. Repeat this process until you pull the fly in. When fishing it with a sinking or intermediate line, it becomes just as effective. The species that are targeted are Panfish, Smallmouth, Largemouth, and Trout. Skip mentioned that when fishing below the surface it misses most of the snags, because being foam it rises. I know from my experiences, you will have a lot of tight lines fishing either method.

While doing your winter tying, make sure you tie some of these awesome morsels up for some early season fun or even throughout the season. Until next month, Snazzy Flies and Tight Lines.



Chris Hunter

Purple Haze



HOOK: Standard dry-fly hook (e.g. Dai-Riki #305), sizes 10-20.

THREAD: Purple, 6/0 or 70 denier.

TAIL: Speckled moose-body hair.

WING POST: White calf-body hair.

GLUE #1: Fly Tyers Z-Ment*

HACKLE: Brown and grizzly.

GLUE #2: Sally Hansen Hard As Nails*

Tips from the website:

- Prepare enough calf body hair for numerous wing posts all at once*
- Place the wing post at about the 60% point on the hook shank, as opposed to the standard 75%, to better balance the fly on the water
- Wrap the hackles counterclockwise, first up the post, then back down before holding the tips in place to tie them off
- Don't use a hair stacker but instead uses a shallow cardboard box or fingertips*
- Use Shellac as head and body cement*
- Flexi-floss is good for the for the body, but [the author] switched back to thread to increase the fly's durability
- Thread - purple 6/0 Unithread or 70 Denier Ultra thread*

* Not gonna happen – just saying....Chris

By Bruce Strachan

Fly Fishing & Golf

Pacific Northwest grocery stores don't offer bags to shoppers. They offer sacks. At least that was thirty years ago when I lived in Oregon. Today you probably have to bring your own container no matter where you live. Bag, sack... What's the difference? They serve the same purpose. So it is with sport. Some guys like to chase the little white ball while others chase challenging fish in a local slough.

A slough is easy to describe. It is basically a ditch, natural or man-made. Often it is somewhat channelized and its banks can be 10 or 15 feet above the water line with a steep gradient to match. Sloughs are the poor relative of Northwest Rivers, which can be beautiful and majestic.

The Skagit is one such river, running wide, wild and long from the Cascades of British Columbia to Puget Sound. Its salmon and steelhead will test your cunning in finding them and your skill in landing them on a fly. Failing a success with the main river, forgiveness for a slow day on the Skagit can be had on its flats and mouth that give up willing Dolly Varden trout.

The Stillaguamish River is beautiful in its upper reaches, a smallish freestone stream that will yield a silver-bright summer steelhead to the accomplished angler.

Sloughs are neither beautiful nor majestic. These "ditches" however connect lakes and streams to larger "real" rivers, and they do have two agreeable attributes for the angler. First, sloughs often run through rural, suburban, even urban, areas. Second, sloughs often carry salmon and steelhead runs to their annual spawning grounds. Together these attributes spell angling opportunity for a convenient and potentially big fish catch.

Sammamish Slough was my "home water" as far as local salmon and steelhead fishing was concerned. Before work in the autumn it was not unusual to find John and me stealing some time on the Sammamish "ditch." John was my best engineering technician and an avid angler, always anxious for a catch. Saturday morning was also a

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Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Ally

Al The Hackleman

Winter Fly Tying

I am currently sitting next to one of our windows and enjoying the sunshine on the new snow. The birds are eating at our feeders and all is good. The house is warm, and both Joyce and I are getting ready for some winter fly tying fun. Patterns have been discussed and materials have been found.

This brings back some good memories of patterns learned, used and repeated. So let us think about winter fly tying a bit.

I was fortunate to learn a lot about fly tying from Ron Angove. Ron and I shared a lot of time both tying flies and discussing patterns and materials. One of the best comments Ron ever made to me was that when I saw a new pattern that interested me I should always buy three of them. One copy to fish and find out if it worked. The second copy to be used if the first one got lost on a branch or large fish, and the third copy to take home and take apart and find out how it was tied. That of course was so I could then duplicate the pattern and really save money. During the past years I have always tried to hold true to that idea. Buy three copies of a pattern and use only two for fishing. Take the last copy and use it to make more for my use later.

There are a couple of wonderful things in that memory. First, I remember a good friend and fishing partner that I met at MFFC. Second I remember a good learning experience and discussion with that good person. And both of these memories came about from fly tying. There is a lot to learn just from that simple idea.

I probably own about 45 books of fly

patterns. From Trout to Bass to saltwater to Salmon and Steelhead flies, I have lots of patterns to look at. I heard once that there are probably 2000 different fly patterns known and used, and that seems about right. I know that I carry a lot of different patterns with me every time I go fishing. Some are just different sizes or colors of a general pattern, like size 12, 14 and 16 Adams, some with upright divided wings and some parachute. Some tied with beaver dubbing and some tied with synthetic dubbing. Some a bit darker than others, some a bit lighter. All the same, but slightly different. So I can give the fish an option and choice. Or maybe just so I that have a choice.

Another fun aspect of fly tying is that I have found it made me learn about the bugs I am trying to imitate. I have a healthy number of books just about the many kinds of bugs that live in our waters. And of course as I have traveled out of Michigan and to other areas, I have to find out about the bugs in that new area. This has caused more education about what and why and when, for those areas being visited. It is all a wonderful never ending process. Bugs that work in Michigan sometimes work in other areas, but maybe I am not in that area when that specific bug hatches. Well I learned something new a few years ago on the Yellowstone trip. We were fishing with Ken Thelen; there had been no interest in our offerings from any of the resident fish. Well Ken tied on a Michigan Hendrickson pattern and cast it out to see what would happen. WOW, a fish rose and ate his fly. We all laughed about that. How dumb was that fish to rise to a pattern that hatches in Michigan in April or May, and here we are in Montana in August. The fish was pretty and Ken enjoyed the catching. I think we all might have made some changes in our patterns to see if that would happen again. More education for sure.

Between the reading, the sharing and the learning about new patterns and materials it seems to me that the fun of fly tying just keeps on giving back. For me it is one of the best aspects of fly fishing there is. I can share some stuff with friends, maybe learn some new stuff from them, and sometimes just enjoy the peace and calmness of just sitting and tying some flies myself. During those long winter evenings I can tie a fly, sit and think about the fish of last season and make plans for fish of next season. I find that it really brings a calm to my life during the winter. I make lists of flies I need by looking at my fly boxes, and that brings back so many good memories of the last season fishing and friends fished with. Sometimes those list forces me to visit a fly shop. That is the tough part, going into a fly shop. I might just need some new dubbing or some hooks, but that also causes me to look at the fly bins. The nice thing is normally the shop is not quite as crowded or busy as during the warmer months. Now is the time for slow conversations about different flies and materials. More learning. Maybe a new pattern catches my eye. Again, now is the time to really discuss this pattern with the folks behind the counter. Maybe tie of few of these new flies too and try them next season.

Make yourself a promise. Watch the different fly tiers at our club meetings. Learn about why they like specific patterns. Ask questions about how and when they fish these patterns that they share. Make notes. We are all very fortunate to have so many opportunities to learn new things at our meetings. Take advantage of those opportunities. Maybe find a new favorite fly to use during one of your trips north to fish. Maybe learn a new tying technique. Expand your horizons and try something new. It's all good. And it all works. Enjoy the winter. April 25th will be here very soon.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events



Promote Fly Fishing

Outdoorama

Club Volunteers Needed!

Every year the Michigan Fly Fishing Club participates in both the Ultimate Fishing Show and the Outdoorama.

Since our constitution states our Club of fly fishers is “dedicated to the promotion of fly fishing, the preservation of the art of fly tying,” this is a wonderful time to tie with youngsters and introduce them to all things fly fishing, and let them tie their first fly. It is also a great opportunity to promote our club and our own Midwest Fly Fishing Expo which occurs only a couple weeks later.

I will tell you that over the years that I have participated I have had a wonderful experience with these youngsters. They leave our booth, not only with their own fly, but with a smile and warm feelings towards those somewhat crazy anglers in the Michigan Fly Fishing Club. Every year we get repeat visitors and maybe one day club members.

So think about helping the club out. You can tie whatever you please, but for the most part we tie the famous Woolly Worm and Woolly Bugger. Neither are that difficult.

Outdoorama February 27-March 1, 2020

Suburban Collection Showplace
Grand River Ave (just west of Taft Rd)
Novi, MI

2020 SHOW HOURS

Thursday Feb 27: 1:00pm – 9:00pm
Friday Feb 28: 11:00am – 9:00pm
Saturday Feb 29: 10:00am – 8:00pm
Sunday March 1: 10:00am – 5:00pm
Spencer’s phone: (248)974-4235 During the show it is better to text me.

Come Join The Fun!

Member’s School

2020 Member School Students & Volunteers Wanted

February 8, 2020 from 9:00am - 3:00pm
at Clarenceville HIGH School
(Across the street from where we meet)
If you are interested please contact:
Chris Hunter, (734) 233-8025 (cell) or
attyhunter@gmail.com

The school includes all aspects of fishing from tying, knots, casting and entomology. We have 30 Novice/Intermediate spaces and 30 Advanced spaces. The School is sure to fill up quickly, so please let Chris know as soon as possible. Coffee/donuts and lunch are included. Everything is provided for the Novice/Intermediate class. Advanced students should bring their own vice and tying materials.

Fly Fishing & Golf Continued
fine time to chase anadromous fish. Good weather for steelheading is unlike weather for any other sport. A blue bird day is great for bass and bream but for these migratory fish we preferred temperatures in the low 40’s and a steady drizzle. Salmon and steelhead shy away from sunlight so a stubborn overcast accompanies cold temperatures and wet nicely. On a particular Saturday we had those perfect conditions.

Our favorite stretch of the slough was right down-town Redmond, on the road to work and not more than 15 minutes away, unless one of us had a fish on. This stretch was straight with a nice run at the far bank, no more than 20 feet away. The far bank, all 15 feet of it, also gave way to the local municipal golf course, always busy on more pleasant days. Hole number eight

and tee number nine sat on the crest of the bank

A pleasant place to fish for steelies it was. That run could be productive and the high banks sheltered us from the worst of any wind. It was quiet too, offering surprising solitude right near home. In short, “catching” was not the only attraction to our spot. A catch this Saturday we did not make. An hour or two went by without a catch or a bump for John or me. Cold, wet, fishless and trying to put a fun face on the outing, we were pathetic to anyone who does not fly fish. Also admittedly ridiculous to lots of friends who will not do this sort of thing!

Golf is unlike fly fishing. It is played on pristine artificial courses, it is played at delightful social venues and it is a BIG buck competitive sport. Granted, fly fishermen and golfers both demand elaborate and expensive equipment and garments. I gave up golf several times. It was just too difficult, too expensive and I admit I like some solitude in life. So I took up fly tying, fly fishing and fly casting. Somehow I can’t give that up.

But on that Saturday the comparison was put to rest because this day would level the field. As we fished we heard a distinct plop from above the far bank.

“What was that?”I asked.
“Beats me,” replied John.
Moments later another plop sounded.
“I still don’t know what that is,” said John.
Voices from above soon followed.
“That’s five for me,” said the first voice.
“Ha! I beat you with four on eight!”
exclaimed the second.

So it was a pair of duffers doing their best on hole eight. This was soon confirmed when a golfer, replete in foul weather gear, stepped to the very top of the slough’s bank. A slicker jacket protected his torso and shiny rain pants his legs. Atop it all was a floppy rain hat secured by a chin strap. The outfit was complete with a putter slung over his right shoulder, military fashion. The duffer watched us for quite a time before turning toward his companion and gesturing at us with the putter, he said, “Hey look at those idiots down there fishing in the rain!”

John and I just glanced at each other, then went back to working the run at the far bank.



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