



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

October 2018

Improve Your Fly Fishing Experience

By Sybil Hunter

"I am a fly tyer," said Glenn Weisner, fly fishing realist and owner of Glenn River Fly Company in Sylvania, Ohio, "self taught until Chris Helm, and he mentored me until his death." "I love spring creek fishing. I do have pro arrangements with a few companies. I fish all over Ohio. I've fished all over PA. I've been all over Wisconsin, Minnesota....Montana for numerous trips. Chris Helm said, 'If someone asks you to do it, do it,'" said Weisner.

"50 Pictures & 50 Tips To Improve Your Fly Fishing," was presented by Glenn Weisner, our October speaking guest. "My goal is to have fun," he said.

"The first rule of fly fishing is you need 50 rods and 50 reels." Weisner said as he projected a picture of his buddy's hearty stash. After the laughter died down he continued, "Don't buy the cheapest or the most expensive."

"I am really passionate about the sport. I've done it all," said Weisner. "I owned nothing. I bought something. I bought everything. I bought a big vest. I bought a little vest. I now take a lanyard."



"I love tippet," said Weisner. "I've spent a lot of time on tippet." He suggests using Orvis Super Strong and loves Dirricki.

"Another thing, I've learned over the years is to manipulate your equipment," said Weisner. "When I fish out of a car, I take a two piece rod and a big box of gear. If you start flying, you'll need to rethink your gear. Fit and function over image." But anyway you fly fish, "Polarized glasses are a must. I believe in sun and bug protection. A lot of the clothing has SPF in it," Weisner said. He found it makes a big difference.

"I do a lot of fishing on my knees. Knee pads from Walmart are best," said Weisner.
Continued on page 2

MFFC Calendar



November 7, 2018

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Bill Keough

Topic: Hackle from Egg to Fly
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

November 21, 2018

Activities Meeting

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

December 5, 2018

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Brian Pitzer

Topic: TBD

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

December 19, 2018

Garage Sale Meeting

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



Continued from page 1

Weisner. He also suggests always taking binoculars, a wading staff and gloves. He travels with a six piece Reddington and a carbon fiber rod.

“When I go fishing, it’s on. I am ready to go and it’s serious,” said Weisner.

“Sometimes you are doing everything right, but there’s still something wrong with the equation,” Weisner said. “Practice, practice, practice...which you know... especially if you have a trip planned.” He shared a travel tale where he blew out his shoulder early, only to be left floating down river with a beer the rest of the day.

“I don’t see people practice in the wind. I don’t see people practice in the rain. I don’t see people practice backing themselves up to trees. I see people practice in perfect weather. I’ve learned competition people will practice under those conditions. If you have the chance to hang out with a competition fisher, do it.”

“Try to cast as short as possible. Keep direct connections. Learn to use your line rather than indicators. Lead your fly under most scenarios. Fish feed on a trigger.”

Weisner said to choose flies based on the fishing. “General or specific? Is it hatch matching? Is it searching? Is it confidence fishing? The technique determines the fly.”

Hatch Matching. “What are they feeding on? Do you look in spider webs? Do you look in trees? Do you look up in the air? When we wet the fly, does it turn colors?” This technique matches the construction of the fly to the food source currently available. A slide showing different flies, some with beads, some only wrapped materials. “They are all weighted, but they are all weighted differently so you fish them differently.”

Searching. Is it fast water? “All your water up here.” Is it slow water? Spring creeks. Weisner recommended the Clark

Creek Caddis, a tying pattern he carries in kit form. He said to avoid copper Caddis.

Confidence Fishing. Confidence flies are flies fished under all conditions. “Use your ears,” said Weisner. “Learn to use your sight. Learn to fish on sound. Understand dropper systems that work under varying conditions. Take big water and break it down into small water.”

“Get in there, get down on your knees.” Switch your rod to the conditions, said Weisner. “Learn to cast back from the bank. Keep a low profile. Fish your way into the water (gradually). Foam is home.” A foam line indicates slow water. “Throw a couple of tiny marshmallows, toss them in and watch what they do.” See how the water moves. “That’s what’s happening to your fly.”

Fish by the bank in shallow water, looking for a bug to fall in. “Have a plan to land the big fish you don’t expect to catch. A fly on the water stays on the water. Use shade to your advantage.” Remember fish will go out to sun bathe, watch for that and “Don’t leave rising fish to find fish,” said Weisner relaying the story of a grueling walk to nowhere to find rising fish they never found.

“Have patience,” said Weisner. “Hire a guide, support your local fly shops. Proven patterns and special techniques can be stolen there.” Weisner showed a slide of a tiny one room shack “fly shop” overseas.

Next a picture of pouring rain. “You gotta have a plan B,” said Weisner. “Always have a plan B, especially if you are on a trip.”

“I am a fly tyer. Everything I do goes back to fly tying. Invest a little money to take some tying and casting lessons.”

“Fish aren’t smart, but they are instinctual. Don’t insult a fish’s instincts,” said Weisner. “Trout eat a drift — they also eat with they are eating. Don’t run out of flies.”

And last but not least? “Remember to take a little one fishing,” Weisner said. “It’s really about catching fish.”

Members

On The Fly



Mike Davis catching salmon on the Pere Marquette



Kathy & Don Oehring's nephew with Chuck Scribner and a Master Angler Fish





MFFC Business

Meeting Minutes MFFC Board Meeting September 9, 2018

Rollcall

Present: Vanderhoof, Strachan, Nowicki, Bada, Hunter, Selinger, Summers, Oehring, Niemi
Absent: Freeburg
Visitors: Albertson

Approval of Minutes: Approved

Approval of Agenda: Approved

Officer Reports

President: **Vanderhoof**

Spence welcomed B. Niemi back.
C. Summers & D. Mayes to co-chair 2019 Expo
"Cloud" storage discussion. Tabled until more technical input is available on security.
Niemi to finalize Club activity calendar.
Garage sale scheduled for Dec 19 meeting.

Vice President: **Strachan**

No report.

Treasurer: **Nowicki**

Treasurer's report approved.
Discussion & approval of \$500 donation to MUCC Tracks.

Corresponding Secretary: **Hunter**

January speaker opening.
Constant Contact list being updated.
Hatch Update: Need 2019 Budget to publish.
Website Update: Dates & speakers now updated.

Membership: **Bada**

Current: 237 paid, 15 in progress, 200 not yet received.

Events & Outings

None at this time.

New Business

Storage Unit discussion. Size options to be investigated. Spence offered to check out contents and investigate size options.

Constitution and By-Laws e-document location discussed. This will be investigated.

Old Business

None at this time.

Visitor Comments

Peter Albertson has various comments. First we need to learn from the J. Telinda issue. Also that we should identify all event chairs early so replacements can be found if necessary.

Roundtable

Meeting Adjourned: 9:02 p.m.

Speaker Meeting: Bill Keough - Nov 7, 2018

The Scales Of Justice Prevail

No More Fish Poop!

The Harrietta Fish Farm located on the Au Sable River has agreed to cease all operations by December 31, 2019 and to never operate a fishery in the Au Sable watershed. The Anglers of the Au Sable worked diligently with area conservation clubs and volunteers with everything from letter campaigns, to donations, to pro bono research and court time as it was found out that the MDEQ pollution discharge permit did not actually protect the river.

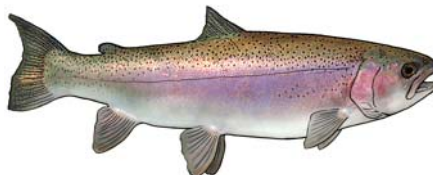
The Anglers of the Au Sable website report:

"The case settled for \$160,000, far less than further court fighting would have cost us.

This settlement saves the river from thousands of pounds of fish waste, and resultant algae blooms and decreased dissolved oxygen. It reduces the risk of disease, escapement, and invasive species. It protects the river."

This is a victory of ecological proportions as all the data indicated the AuSable was highly unlikely to recover had this proposal gone through.

For more detailed information visit ausableanglers.org.



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October Fly Of The Month

A Life Like Terrestrial Fly

Foam Snail

By Todd A. Schotts

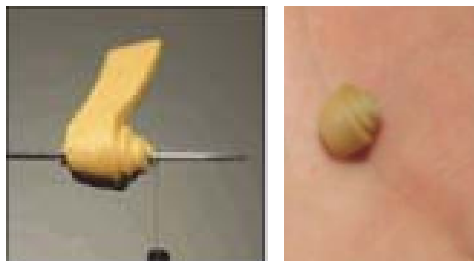
For this month's fly, I decided to keep it very simple and head to a favorite fly type of mine. Terrestrials. Terrestrials can consist of a lot of different flies that represent a wide range of categories including ants, flying ants, spiders, grasshoppers, crickets, beetles, termites, bees and snails. For this terrestrial, we are going across the pond to St. Petersburg, Russia for a very realistic foam snail by famed fly tier Dmitri Tseliaritski.

I actually found Dmitri's fly tying skills online a few years back and have been in awe of his tying abilities, from the flies he ties, to his realistic designs. Aside from the pattern we will discuss, some of his other noted flies he ties include: Russian Wasp, Brown Hopper, and Narova Foam Beetle just to name a few. With his patterns, Dmitri posts long, detailed step-by-step photo series and YouTube video instructions. I found his patterns on YouTube, but they are not in English. One great thing with fly tying, I feel even though in a foreign language, the art of fly tying or fly fishing is an international language that is easily understood by personnel with the same enthusiasm. Between the videos, and publications in English, I was able to do a write up and bring this fly to you.

The "Foam Snail" is almost a forgotten terrestrial in most of our fly boxes. Snails are a common name loosely applied to shelled gastropods. The name is most often applied to land snails and terrestrial pulmonate gastropod mollusks alike. Our

famed tier mentions that if you have kept and gutted a fish from any slow moving or still water, you will almost always find snails in the stomach contents of the fish. One thing to remember about snails, they are very abundant and offer good nutritional value for their prey — sushi grade escargot.

When tying this simple pattern, use thin closed cell foam for the whole pattern. To create the housing for the snail, put a sewing needle in the vise. Start the foam, thick end on the needle, add a dab of super glue then spiral wrap the small strip of foam around to create the shell housing for the snail. Once done, remove the housing from the needle.



Once you have the hook in the vise, you will take another foam strip and trim it to a triangular shape at one end. After tying down the foam to the hook, take two pieces of mono and tie in as antennae behind the hook eye to form a head on the fly. (I have left off the antennae on some of my patterns; it is easier to tie on the tippet.) If you use antennae, use a lighter to make a ball at one end of the mono to give it a more realistic look to the pattern. To attach the foam housing, glue it down to the foam body, flat side down. To achieve that toned "Snail Look," use markers to add accents to the foam body and foam housing. Make sure you use either Prismatic or Copic markers as they are easier to blend than Sharpies. To help secure the housing to the foam snail and

Foam Snail



HOOK: Dry Fly size #10 or #12

THREAD: Tan 8/0 or 70 Denier

HOUSE & BODY: 2mm or 1mm closed cell foam Tan

ANTENNAE: Thin 6lb Monofilament – Hook Gap or less for size (optional)

MARKERS: Black, Brown, and Tan (Prismatic or Copic) do not use Sharpies!!

FINISH: UV Glue or Clear Varnish

to achieve that shiny appearance of snails, use any "Blue Light" UV Glue, or varnish.

When fishing this snail, use a dead drift over areas of water where you have noticed fish activity. Just remember, snails move slowly, and even more slowly, once they are in water. But remember if you have any wind or current, it will manipulate the speed of the fly. Another thing to remember, this fly will ride upright, or maybe tilted on the surface. This is totally fine, because that is how the natural snails ride in the water columns. Dmitri mentions though, that fish targeting snails are not really common, so use a snail when fishing slow slack water.

Until next month, make sure you add some of these slow moving, and forgotten "Escargot" to your terrestrial fly box. Tight Lines & Snazzy Flies.



October Tyer Of The Month

Featured Member Tyer

Sushimi Grade Escargot

Todd Schotts

As the October Featured Tyer, I bring to you something I really have a passion for, fishing for Bass in lily pads and weeds, using my “Griz’s Splish Splash Frogger.” Before I got into fly fishing, my favorite pastime fishing was spin casting a “Scum Frog” or “Weedless Frog” for those dancing Bucket Mouths (Largemouth Bass) of the waters I fished. The memories, of fishing with my dad on the lake I grew up on with the explosion that the Bucket Mouths cause when attacking these types of lures, are a total adrenalin rush whether fishing before sunrise, at dusk, or even in the darkness of the night.

When I joined MFFC many moons ago, I started tying before I started fly fishing. It didn’t take long for me to start chasing the mystic Brook Trout and thunderous Brown Trout. At the time, I thought I could only fly fish for Trout — boy I was so wrong! A couple of past members introduced me to fly fishing for dancing Bronzebacks (Smallmouth) and Bucket Mouths. Since then, I had in my mind on those darn scum frogs, fishing on the lily pads and weeds to those explosions. There are flies out there that work around those structures, but they still were not what I was looking for. It wasn’t until 2016, that I decided to sit down at my tying desk to work out a plan for a scum type frog for fly fishing. After a few months, during the cold of January & February, my “Griz’s Splish Splash Frogger” was born.

The fun part of designing a fly pattern is when the final product achieves what the fly was designed for. I love the challenge of

designing and creating new effective fly patterns for my extensive library of effectively tested flies. For my frog, the 2016 season brought many changes and a few re-designed ideas. In the following 2017 season, the major testing of this pattern took place. It was nothing but pure tight lines and dancing Bucket Mouths! My fishing companions Bob and Renee Gall helped test this pattern. This fly has finally was what I was looking for, something I can fish in and around lily pads and weed lines with minimal snags. That feeling I had with spin casting the scum frogs is back — and on a fly rod! I had nothing but success with this frog, as did Bob and Renee. My favorite saying is now “Give me lily pads or weeds” as we unload our kayaks around Michigan.

If you are a purist using traditional materials, then unfortunately this fly is not something you will not want to sling your bobbins on, since this fly is foam, silicone rubber legs and stick on eyes. The only traditional material is the saddle hackle or schlappen used to cover up the inside of the fly. When I first designed this fly, I had a bunch of colors; I am now down to three different combinations that work best: olive/green foam & olive legs, black foam & purple legs, and white foam & chartreuse legs. The black/purple color combo is great right before dusk and into the evening, the other two color combos work well throughout the day. One major issue I had was finding a hook for this fly; thanks to Dan Walker who introduced me to the Allen Hooks B200 Bass Hook. It has just enough curve and works great. Tye these in sizes 10, 8, and 6, with the most popular size being size 10.

When fishing this pattern, I recommend non-sinking straight leader that is no lighter than 12 lb., any lighter will break off when trying to bring your catch in from the weeds and lily pads. One thing everyone forgets:

Griz’s Splish Splash Frogger



HOOKS: Allen Hooks B200 Sizes 10, 8, & 6

BODY: 2mm Craft Foam in olive green, black and white

WEIGHT: .035 tied on top of hook shank to keel hook over (2 pieces)

LEGS: Silicone rubber legs in avocado, purple and chartreuse

HACKLE: Hen Hackle or Schlappen in chartreuse and purple

EYES: Stick on eyes in red, green/yellow

cast your frog, let it sit then twitch it. Do not start stripping it in right away, for with that plop of your fly you have the attention of the big boys of the shallows. If you just start stripping it in, you will lose their attention and will miss the fish of a life time. Also remember that Bass and Pike like to bump or hit their prey to stun them before they take it in for lunch. Don’t take the frog out of the strike zone.

So, if you want to tie a pretty cool frog pattern, bring your vise and sling your bobbins as we will be hopping the activity night away.



Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Stalwart

At The Hackleman

End Of The Season Thoughts

As I sit here at home, the wind is blowing, the sky is cloudy and we are waiting for the first frost of the fall. The fishing season is coming to a close in many spots and most of the trout streams here in Michigan are already closed. I find this a time of reflection and planning for me. While I look forward to tying flies during the winter and really organizing much of my equipment, it is also a time to mark my calendar for next year too.

So the first thing on my calendar is our annual visit to the Yellowstone Park area. For the past few years we have enjoyed and filled three weeks each year at Driftwaters Resort. For next year, 2019, we currently have FOUR weeks reserved for our group. The adventure starts Saturday July 27 and runs for four weeks, ending on Saturday August 24, 2019. As in years past, reservations for this fun trip will start at the first meeting of December this year. My notes show that the first Michigan Fly Fishing Club meeting is scheduled for Wednesday December 5. So look at your calendars and give some thought to joining our fun visit to that wonderful fishing area. Joyce and I will both be at that meeting to offer a short presentation about the trip, answer any questions and sign folks up for the adventure out west.

Joyce and I recently attended a truly wonderful evening in Lovells that was sponsored by a group we did not know existed, Celebrate The Rivers. Somehow we missed this nice evening in the past, but after attending this latest evening we have added this to our calendar for every year in the future. This year they offered a great dinner

provided by the chef and crew from Gates AuSable Lodge, followed by a number of authors from Michigan and some folks that have done a lot of research about the rivers of our state.

There were presentations about many different aspects and historical items about trout streams here in Michigan. Some of the presenters showed historic notes about different figures in fly fishing in the area around Grayling. One presentation was about the history of the famed AuSable river boat and early builders and users of that wonderful water craft. There were also some authors that really interested us.

Jerry Dennis is a long time Michigan author that has lived in the U.P. and northern mitten all his life. I first met Jerry back in 1994 when Northville opened its new library. Jerry was one of the guest speakers there and I spent quite a bit of time chatting with him about his numerous books that I had and enjoyed reading. Jerry attended NMU in Marquette years ago, and my son Neil was a student there during the early 1990s. Jerry wrote about not only the history of the area, but also about different hunting and fishing spots he enjoyed. His books were always those kind of books that just felt right being read during a winter snow storm with the wind howling and the trees all bent over getting coated with snow. His books sort of helped make things warmer from the prose and chapters about where and how he caught fish. While at the Lovells evening, I got a chance to spend some time with Jerry and refresh our friendship. I was able to buy his latest book and have it signed like all the others. Jerry has that ability to write stories that just make me feel as if I am there too, enjoying the flowing stream or wonderful fall air during a bird hunt. His stories almost make me look forward to the cold, windy evenings coming so soon, so I can read them all again.

Another author there that evening was

named Tim Schulz. Now Tim did a presentation about John Voelker (aka Robert Traver) and the places he fished in our upper peninsula. It seems that Tim went to school at Michigan Tech and read Voelker's many stories about fishing the UP. He became fascinated about the actual where and how things happened in those stories. Thus became his interest in not only the author John Voelker, but also in the areas that this man loved to fish up there in the U.P. Tim kept asking himself how he could find the spots that Voelker wrote about. What map would show the railroad track that was mentioned? What area was that special bend in a river really in? How to get to that special bend? What road was closest and most accessible? So many questions and mysteries. Tim is now a professor at Michigan Tech, but is still fascinated by Voelker and his places to fish. His book, *The Habits of Trout*, was written about the fishing in the U.P. and about those secret spots the Voelker wrote about too. Tim was truly a joy to chat with, and after buying his book, I asked to have it personalized to Joyce, who also loves the U.P. and its numerous fishing opportunities. Tim carries a green marker to sign books, just like John Voelker did. That, I must admit, made the note he added and the signature so very special for Joyce. So that book is another that we both look forward to reading and enjoying during the coming winter.

Books make the long winter go by so much nicer. They can help us plan, help us remember the last season, and of course just help pass the time when the snow flies. As a member of The Michigan Fly Fishing Club I fondly remember the first time I partook of our club library. There was such a wonderful array of books about the sport that we all share and enjoy. Books about flies and history and fishing and rods and reels and just plain fun stuff. There are so many opportunities to learn something new about our sport. I challenge you to visit the library, look at all the books and subjects, and start a reading and learning winter. Enjoy those books.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events

On Sale Now!

Expo Shirts

From the October meetings until the December activities meeting, you can place your order for the official issue 2019 Expo shirts!

This Columbia Bahama long sleeved shirt is available in a *wide* range of men's and women's sizes!

ALL sizes will be available at Club meetings to try on - sizing of the shirts is VERY generous.

The cost is \$50 per shirt. Make checks payable to MFFC.

For Club members that cannot make the meetings, orders can be made by simply contacting Eric or Cindy Center at their email ecenter4753@yahoo.com or at their cell numbers (248) 787-6414 and (248) 787-6414 respectively.

November Guest Speaker

Bill Keough

Bill Keough personally handles every step, from hatch to harvest, of his genetic hackle business. He is one of the largest producers of quality genetic hackle on the market. He will be our November guest speaker taking us on the journey "From Egg To Fly." Viewer discretion advised.

John Pinto

Sand In My Shoe

There I was...It was 1983 and I was doing Larry Sawicki a big favor. At the time, Larry was the owner of Lakeside Fishing Shop and had a house on Big Pine Key in Florida. He also had a house full of furniture he really did not want to drive down there to unload. So Larry conned me into taking his Cadillac, and the biggest trailer U-Haul rented, to drive his furniture to Big Pine.

"Take a nice vacation and stay as long as you want," he offered.

My fiancé Ronnie worked for Larry at the time and came with me. I did 100% of the driving; it took two days. We put the furniture where we thought it should go and kicked back to enjoy a Florida Keys vacation. We did Key West a couple of times, flew to the Cayman Islands for a two-day junket and went fishing for bonefish out of Islamorada with fishing guide Vic Gaspeny.

We fished both sides of the Keys and spent a lot of time moving around. Vic tried his best but there were few fish and plenty of other boats. I had two casts all day. What I vividly remember were the dozens of prop scars defacing the bottom, which was not a pretty sight. Vic charged \$300 back then - an outrageous amount - and so my bonefishing career was already at \$150 a cast.

I returned to the Keys several years later and stayed with old pal Allan Finkleman. I had met Allan at Harbour Island in the Bahamas in the mid-1980s; we fished with Bonefish Joe and I taught Allan how to double-haul on the lawn of the Coral Sands hotel. Allan went on to move from New York to Islamorada and became a fly fishing guide.

He and I fished three days and the bonefish that did not show up for me in 1983 did not show up again. Allan poled a lot, we checked spot after spot and what I remember was the increase in the number of boats chasing so few fish. I came away concluding the Florida Keys fishery has seen its hey-day. Too many guides chasing too few fish and the abrasive attitude of a lot of guides had spread throughout the fly fishing universe. I really do not like the Florida Keys and do not recommend them to anyone.

That said however, I must give credit where it is due. And that is quite possibly the best fly fishermen come out of the Florida Keys. They know their species, they pursue quite thoroughly, and all are great fly casters. I will go so far as to claim that most of the advancements in fly fishing - tackle, casting, flies, techniques, etc. - came from the salt water anglers. And most of this came from the Florida Keys.

While visiting Allan, he introduced me to a little-known angler who might have been the Florida Keys best tackle guru. His name was David Swartzman, he retired to Marathon after teaching at NYU for almost forty years. David had a knack for finding the simplest approach to any fly fishing problem. He developed the "kicker leader," a three-section monofilament leader that not only works extremely well in salt water applications, but definitely spills over into the fresh water world.

David's final kicker leader design consisted of 7-feet of 30# monofilament. A 1-foot section of 20# mono was tied to that followed by 4-ft of 12# mono. It sounds a little crazy but casting is believing. The 20# section acts as the "kicker" and forces this leader to turn over time and time again. I have become a kicker leader fanatic and tie all kinds of variations from this one David Swartzman design. I will tie in an extra section of 8# monofilament and create the perfect "first light" leader for bonefish at Mayaguana.

David passed away in 2007 but left a whole bunch of good ideas for both the salt and fresh water fly fishermen. We all are better anglers because of him.



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