



The Evening

# Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

October 2019

## Copper John & Hippie Chick Tie One On

By Sybil Hunter

Scott Bowerman, taking his fly tying demo which he weekly broadcasts over the web, on the road, joined the MFFC in September as our guest speaker. Hailing from Whitehall, Michigan, he and his wife Tammy are both professional tyers and Daiichi Pro Staff. Bowerman designs flies for Umpqua. His flies will be featured as model flies in the 2020 Daiichi catalog.

The evening featured the detailed makings of four flies: #1 Ice Caddis; #2 Nymph Skin; #3 Egg Dropper; and #4 the infamous Copper John.

Ice Caddis “The reason I tie so many caddis flies...it’s not because it’s easy... Caddis are a guaranteed fish catching fly,” said Bowerman.

Nymph Skin “I use Brahma Hen, imitation Hungarian Partridge,” said Bowerman setting out his materials. “Mise en Place,” said Bowerman, “means getting all your crap together,” referring to the culinary term that technically translates to “everything in its place.” It is easier and quicker to tie when everything is ready to go.

Continuing on, “We’re going to use



something called Awesome Possum. They are not so awesome when they are in your garbage, but they are awesome when they come out of a bag — like this,” said Bowerman. “You can use rabbit, but Awesome Possum has a lot larger fibers, and a lot longer fibers.”

Egg Dropper “This one is a beast. It is salmon season, so I’m going to use this beast of a hook,” said Bowerman. “The Boss was discontinued, so now there’s the new boss, kinda like when you get married, then there’s a new boss...” Tammy concurred. Next, Bowerman pulled out a bead. “If you hit yourself with this bead...” “It’s gonna leave a mark!” Scott Freeburg finished.

“If you keep your cost down, then you are going to sell more flies...and that’s why I don’t sleep,” said Bowerman. An easy cost saver? Putting spooled materials on a bobbin — to lose less, and use more actual material. Bowman pulled out his bobbin-ed blue tinsel.

Next chenille. “When you use

## MFFC Calendar



**October 16, 2019**

**Activity Meeting**  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

**November 6, 2019**

**Speaker Meeting**  
**Speaker:** John Satkowski  
**Topic:** Streamer Tying Demo  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

**November 20, 2019**

**Activities Meeting**  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

**December 4, 2019**

**Speaker Meeting**  
**Speaker:** Ray Schmidt  
**Topic:** TBD  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.



Egg dropper in progress

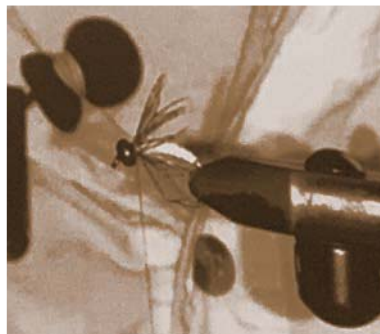
*Continued from page 1*

chenille, it will have a certain angle to it, you want it smooth to your fingers," said Bowerman. The fibers of the chenille should be smoothly pointing towards the bend of the hook.

Then then finish. "The reason I like to put a second whip finish on is if anybody's ever used a second nut on a bolt," said Bowerman, "they know the second nut holds on the first."



Bowerman's ProStaff



Color photos courtesy of Tammy Bowerman



Copper John "For the Copper John, you have to have a copper bead," Bowerman said starting the fly. Then come biots. "If you work with a lot of biots, it's best to pull them out rather than cut them out...it gives you more material." When placing the biots to tie onto the hook, Bowerman advised having the concave part away from the hook, and the convex against the hook. Then helicopter the material to break it. Other advise? "One of the biggest mistakes most people make when tying a fly, is putting on too many wraps of thread," said Bowerman, who finished the demo with a question and answer session.



Members

# On The Fly



Arkansas Crew 2019



Bill Cusumano below Mio with a Hammer-handle Pike



Don does it again...



# MFFC Business



## Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Board Meeting May 8, 2019

### Rollcall

Present: Vanderhoof; Strachan; Nowicki; Bada; S. Hunter; Summers; Oehring; Niemi  
Absent: Selinger; Freeburg  
Visitors: David Mayes

**Approval of Minutes** - Approved.

**Approval of Agenda** - Approved.

Appointment of Craig Summers to vacant Director At Large position.

### Officer Reports

#### President - Vanderhoof

\*The 2019-2020 Board is as follows: President - Dave Nowicki; Vice President - Bruce Strachan; Treasurer - Kathy Oehring; Membership Chair - Bob Niemi; Recording Secretary - Steve Selinger; Corresponding Secretary - Sybil Hunter; Director At Large - Jon Bada; Director At Large - David Mayes; Past President - Spence Vanderhoof.

\*Len and Mary Dixon did a great job at last Saturday's Youth School at Tollgate. 8 kids attended. Lots of fish and fun. 32 fish caught during the clinic. Every kid caught at least 1 fish.

#### Vice President - Strachan

\*The Opener was fun. Lots of food, lots of fish. Thanks to Josh Greeberg for hosting MFFC on the Opener.

\*Thank you to the outgoing board and those still serving on the board. Welcome to the new faces.

#### Treasurer - Nowicki

Treasurer's report approved. Conservation checks will be going out soon.

#### Corresponding Secretary - Hunter

Hatch: The latest Hatch will be available at the banquet. The Hatch will be printed over the summer if there is enough content.  
Website: None.

Speakers: Need a July 2019 speaker. Working on speakers for fall. VisTaTek Center needs a head count. IF4 presentation on June 12. Coffee and popcorn will be added to the rental cost. Will order 40 coffee and 80 popcorn.

#### Membership - Bada

439 active member count. Hunter increase since last meeting. Average age of membership is 62 years old. Maybe time to consider doing a short survey of the membership again.

### Events & Outings

**Calendar:** 2019 May to September dates provided at that time.

**Women's Outing:** Previously chaired by Linda Box, possibly chaired by Tracey Partridge.

### New Business

**Website & Social Media Goals Proposal:** 1. Build awareness and attendance of the MFFC Expo. 2. Reach out to and attract new, young members to the MFFC. 3. Create Social Media and website platforms that are effective and easily maintained for both Expo and Club websites. Comments: David Mayes provided a handout to help explain the importance of social media along with the proposal from Heidi Oberstadt. Social media is separate from the website. We need Haley to work on upgrades for the Club and Expo websites. These are two different items. For the Expo, Heidi Oberstadt will evaluate our past social media practices and make recommendations for improvements. The Expo is our current social media priority. The objective for this initial study is to develop a social media strategy to reach more people who may be interested to attend the Expo, and perhaps join our club activities, and get them to attend the Expo. Interaction (reposting) with our Expo vendors and headliners who are active on social media will add to our overall success. Approval of Haley Vingsness project application to Microsoft. Act on Heidi Oberstadt Social Media proposal. Heidi will complete the initial assessment by the end of June. She will train David Mayes on this technology. We still need another person. Craig Summers volunteered to be a third person to learn. Any more volunteers?

### Old Business

**Grant Presentation:** Grand 1 Eric Shores BSA - no MFFC sponsor; Grant 2 Conservation Resource Alliance - Mike Matuszewski sponsored; Grant 3 Grayling Hatchery Inc. - Spence Vanderhoof sponsored; Grand 4 Casting for Recovery MI - no MFFC sponsor; Grand 5 Reeling and Healing MI - Joe Spryes et al sponsored; Grand 6 Bamboo Bend - Kevin Lipp sponsored; Grant 7 Flying Heroes - no MFFC sponsor. The board deliberated the pros and cons of each of the applications for funding. The decision as follows: Grant 2 - Conservation Resource Alliance - River Care Kids, \$1,500 and Grant 3 - Grayling Hatchery Inc., \$2,500.

**Visitor Comments:** See New Business

### Roundtable

**Meeting Adjourned at:** 8:57 p.m.



### 2018 - 2019 Officers

#### President:

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# October Fly Of The Month

Wonder Wing

## Little Black Stonefly

By Todd A. Schotts

This month's fly is a unique and simple Little Black Stonefly dry fly pattern I and my fellow Trout Opener companions used this past year. The fly we are talking about would be the version of the "Little Black Stonefly with a Wonder Wing," by Tim Flagler.

For the person who brought us the famous "Wonder Wing," we will have to go back to the early to mid 70's from the famed tier and author Chauncy K. Lively, from Pennsylvania. This is just one of his famed wing techniques that he used on his well known fly patterns. Chauncy liked to use this "Wonder Wing" technique on his Mayflies and Stoneflies which gives a realistic look. He mentions, "It retains its shape and silhouette after repeated use." I know I can back that up for sure. Besides fishing the limestone waters of Pennsylvania, he loved using this pattern on his beloved Au Sable River here in Michigan.

Moving forward to 2019, I was looking for a Little Black Stone Fly pattern that was a dry fly pattern this past March, and with the age of technology, I found this unique pattern on a video that was being tied by Tim Flagler, from Tightline Productions. Tim mentions in the video, he first saw this pattern tied by Johnny Utah, the fly tier—not Keanu Reeves' character from the 1991 movie *Pointe Break*. Tim mentions he changed up some the materials. I watched both videos and prefer Tim's version, which I am featuring here.

When tying this amazing pattern the hook sizes to tie these on are: in the early season try sizes 18 to 20; as the water warms start using a larger size 16 (usually mid April or May). The body material is CDC Slate Gray wrapped around the hook. Don't worry if there are fibers

sticking out all over the place, it will add to the buggy appearance of this fly pattern. Now here comes the major component in this fly pattern, the "Wonder Wing." Take a Coq De Leon or a soft hackle feather and by stroking the barbs of the feather away from the feather tip toward the hackle stem, you can now loosely tie the feather down behind the eye of the hook, in the area between the tip and barbs. At this point, the stem of the fly is hanging out over the hook eye, and tip is facing toward the back of the hook. Now very gently, pull the tip toward the back of the fly (bend of the hook), about half a hook shank past the bend of the hook. Done correctly, all the fibers of the soft hackle are secured at the tie in position behind the eye. Don't worry if you have a few flies that where the hackle is pulled too far. Once you master this technique, you will know how far to pull the hackle before it is too far. Before you secure the wing in position, make sure your wing is in the desired position. After securing the wing in place, you can cut the tip of the hackle off cleanly from behind the set wing. It is actually really easy tying the "Wonder Wing" on stoneflies rather than the upright wings of the mayflies, which can be a tad more difficult. One thing you will notice with the "Wonder Wing," is it will give the appearance of veins in the wing and with the CDC as the body; it really gives it the buggy and realistic appearance that we are trying to achieve. The next step, I wrap the dry fly hackle behind the eye usually 4 or 5 wraps. If you think you may have a problem with the hackle sliding around, you can take some black or dark dun dry fly dubbing and make a small head that will also be a pad for your hackle. This will help secure the hackle in position as you wrap it, so it won't slide around. With the fly being finished, if you whip finish this really well, no glue is actually necessary. If you want to make sure, and you can add some head cement. The last step I do, is to take half of the flies, trim the hackle off the bottom (to ride lower in the film), and leave the rest with full hackle (to ride higher in the film).

When fishing this pattern, remember the Little Black Stone Fly (also known as Tiny Early and Late Winter Black Stoneflies) emergence schedule is usually from January until the

## Wonder Wing Black Stonefly



**HOOK:** Dry Fly 1x long sizes 16, 18 & 20

**THREAD:** Black 70 Denier or 8/0

**BODY:** CDC Slate Gray

**WING:** Whiting Coq De Leon Hen Cape Black or you can use Whiting Brahma Hen Mottled Grey (not as dark)

**HACKLE:** Dry fly hackle, Black or Gray.

**OPTIONAL:** Dry fly dubbing black or dark gray for head/pad for hackle

weather warms in early May. Make sure you look for rocky stream beds with good flow levels in medium sized streams. It is recommended to fish this in the afternoon on bright sunny days, and make sure to fish close to the bank or downfall over shallow riffles where these tiny morsels tend to crawl out to emerge from their nymphal shucks. If you decide to fish during the winter snowy months of January or February with this pattern, these trout snacks tend to hatch during breaks in cold weather.

So if you want a great pattern for early season and spring trout, make sure you add this pattern to your list of flies to tie. I know I load my boxes with these tiny trout morsels. Until next month Tight Lines, Bobbin Slingsing, and Snazzy Flies.



# October Featured Tye

Ward Bean's

## Jointed Minnow

By Todd A. Schotts

For this month's fly pattern, we will be stepping very lightly into the arena of the Articulated Fly pattern with a very small and simple one. The last few years, the go to flies for most streamers have been the articulated fly patterns. These patterns give the appearance of the swimming prey of forage fish within the watershed you are targeting. The pattern we will be tying is another great pattern from the desk of Ward Bean, "The Jointed Minnow."

This pattern is actually a newer version of his pattern "Ward's Articulated Streamer." Ward mentions he was sent an email from Doug Rorer of Stillwater, MN telling him that he substituted Wapsi Palmer Chenille for the hen feathers Ward used on this articulated streamer. But he didn't trim the material, nor did he color it to represent any type of baitfish. Ward took that info, trimmed and shaped, added dome eyes, and colored the pattern to create different types of baitfish. This pattern is made of two segments, the tail section and the head/shoulder section — which is a small "Articulated Fly." We will be joining these two sections with Salt Water Bite Tippet, which is coated and not as thick as Monofilament. With this age in synthetic materials, add in markers, you can tie a basic white pattern (*like we will do*) then add color with markers to create forage fish of a Sunfish, Emerald Shiner, shad, Perch, or any other type of baitfish.

When tying, remember we want to mimic the size of the local forage fish that is in the watershed you will be fishing. A size 2 with the articulated back part, makes a great size. Ward's website, suggests using size 2 hooks cutting the bend off the back hook, or you can use articulated spine segments which I will use for tying night.

Ward says when using slippery synthetic material, use curved seriated scissors and do not get carried away trimming. We want to mimic a prey pattern, not a military flat top! The next step is coloring the pattern to create the baitfish you desire. One thing you do not want to do is use Sharpie markers, because even though they claim to be waterproof, they will fade rapidly. Use Prismacolor or Copic Markers. One thing that is nice, they come in a variety of colors and you can find them in the art department at your local craft shops or even in some fly shops. They are classified as illustrators paint type markers, which means you can blend the colors to have a smooth transition by using your fingers to stroke the material with the colors. Remember to watch out for the hook point when blending.

When fishing this pattern, with the size of this fly, you can use a 5 weight fly rod, but I would recommend a 6 weight or larger. Since this fly is weighted, you can use a floating line; but if you want to get this down deeper, I would recommend an intermediate or a sink tip fly line. For retrieving this pattern, just strip like you would with normal streamers. I like to strip, strip, twitch, and then pause when retrieving this fly pattern.

So if you want learn to tie a fun little articulated fly pattern, bring your vises, tools, and sling bobbins with me on this amazing crafty articulated fly pattern. I

## Jointed Minnow



Sunfish



Perch



Shad

**HOOK:** *Mustad 3366 Size 2*

**ARTICULATED SECTION:** *3/4", 1" or 1 5/8"*

**THREAD:** *White 140 Denier or 6/0*

**TAIL:** *White Marabou Blood Feather*

**WEIGHT:** *.020 or .025*

**CONNECTION:** *Salt Water Bite Tippet or 30# Mono,*

**MARKERS:** *Prismacolor or Copic Markers*

**EYES:** *Molded Plastic Eyes 1/4"*

**ADHESIVE:** *Gel Super Glue or Goop to attach Eyes*

**OPTIONAL:** *UV Glue for the head to keep its shape*

will supply all the material but the thread. Make sure you bring **WHITE THREAD** for this tie. Until the meeting, tight lines and snazzy flies!!!



# August Speaker Of The Month

Erin Dreelin

## Is It Safe?

By Sybil Hunter

Recreation water quality was August's topic of conversation when the MFFC welcomed Erin Dreelin, stormwater expert and professor at MSU's Fisheries & Wildlife Division, to present "Is It Safe To Play In The Water?" Accompanying sides included a large urban stormwater run-off, a river in Georgia that takes the unfiltered flow of filth from the football stadium that resides directly above it, and unfortunately, the algae green waves of our own Lake Erie.

2007 was the largest outbreak in Michigan from waterborne illness. "The most common waterborne disease is AGI," said Dreelin. AGI is acute gastrointestinal illness, and ARI is acute respiratory illness. "It is because they are drinking it inadvertently. There were a number of outbreaks in lakes, streams, pools...a whole lot of failures in treatment," said Dreelin.

Global warming? "It complicates things," explained Dreelin. "With more frequent storms, and more intense storms, there is more exposure to more pathogens. All of these outbreaks tend to follow large storm events. [The Wisconsin event] was a very large storm event that flushed in a lot of pathogens into our water systems.

Urban Storm Syndrome, "It's what we've done to change the water systems. We need to break the cycle," creating green roofs, places for stormwater to run off... "We have essentially changed how the water moves. We have built curb and gutter collection systems. The soil is really good water quality treatment. It might relieve 80% to 90% of contaminants. Let the water soak in, get it into the ground."

Urban Stream Syndrome causes flashy hydrography; altered channel morphology;

increased nutrients and contaminants; decreased biotic richness and an increase in tolerant species. "You don't necessarily know where the water goes," said Dreelin. "Urban streams are really flashy...that leads to a lot of erosion and the stream patterns change. The flow channel is very much altered from its original state." Run-off from hot surfaces, increases the overall water temperature, which fosters pathogens.

Define safe. Recreational water quality standards use E. Coli as an indicator of pathogenic safety. The daily standard is 300 E. Coli per 100 mL water. The monthly standard is 130 E. Coli per 100 mL of water. "Most E. Coli doesn't actually cause disease," said Dreelin. However, "If you find it, you know there is contamination."

Who assesses water quality? Local government agencies, local health departments and universities. There are standard established techniques that are followed - grab a water sample, take it back to the lab, culture the E. Coli. "Not every body of water is monitored," noted Dreelin. Although, "The majority of our waters in this state are addressed."

When you see a sign saying not to enter the water, that typically means the water was bad yesterday, and today...we really don't know, explained Dreelin. "We have this problem that we are always a day late. E. Coli contamination is one of the biggest" issues. There is a fish tissue standard and a separate water column standard. Multiple samples are taken over a summer season (at least five samples are taken over a 30 day period). Other Michigan contaminants include PCBs in the water column of 49,710 river miles; PCBs in 22,142 tested fish; E. Coli in 8,962 river miles; mercury present in 7,988 tested fish; mercury in the water column of 7,904 river miles. (The data presented is from 2016, released in 2018, the most recently published report by the State of Michigan, available on-line.) "Watersheds are monitored every five years. This state has a rotating schedule of testing. The info is on the DEQ website. In the back of the report, there is a list of water bodies tested."

"Wait at least a day after a big storm water event" before entering the water, advised



Dreelin. "Some streams take three days. The good news is most of these [pathogens] are gut bacteria, because they are outside of their preferred environment, they don't last long. If it's a sunny day, they will die faster."

Does less ice coverage on the Great Lakes make a difference? "We get peaks in the summer months," said Dreelin, "so we haven't paid much attention to the winter months. Bacteria, if cold or sunny, they tend to die. Viruses stay alive, according to a recent study. We are still learning."

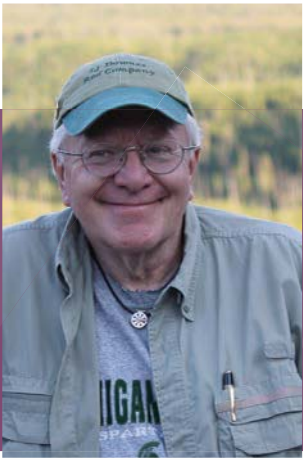
"PCBs are fat loving compounds," so to reduce exposure, "Peel off the skin of the fish, and grill the fish to let the fat drip off." Dreelin said. Also, "Eat smaller fish, they eat lower on the food web, to control your dose of mercury."

"Over 90% of the river miles assessed, are in violation of the E. Coli standards," so, "Don't put your fly rod or line in your mouth!"

A member inquired as to contaminated irrigation water. "We don't really know the burden of disease," said Dreelin. "We only see the plane crashes."

What's next? The State of Michigan is in the process of creating and updating the Michigan qPCR Network, funded by EGLE (Environmental Great Lakes & Energy). qPCR is quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction. According to Dreelin, it's "CSI water." Collect, filter, extract DNA, run qPCR, analyze.

A sample is taken to the university lab, *Continued on Club Information page*



# Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Marathoner

Al The Hackleman

## End Of The Season Thoughts

I am sitting here looking outside and asking myself where the summer went. It seems like just a few weeks ago it was Opening Day of Trout Season and we were all meeting at Gates for our traditional opener get together.

I know that I did fish this year. Joyce and I enjoyed time on both the Au Sable and Manistee Rivers this summer. We even fished a few new places that I am not allowed to mention by name. Sort of secret spots, if you know what I mean.

We had a wonderful trip to the Yellowstone area and enjoyed so many wonderful fishing times with so many Michigan Fly Fishing Club members. We even visited some new spots out west. We shared some great memories with some newbies on the trip. The plans for next year are already in process.

But here it is, mid-October. All of the big name hatches of bugs are done for this season. Fishing now is all wet flies and nymphs. It is fun stuff and the fish are still in the rivers, but without dry flies Joyce is sort of bummed about fishing right now. Of course we can try our hand at Salmon or Steelhead fishing, and that might happen in the upcoming weeks, but the close to home fishing is sort of done for this year.

Of course the fall starts the time for fly tying. I must say that tying my own flies has been a wonderful addition to my fly fishing experience. We both tie quite a few flies each year, but we also buy flies

in just about every fly shop we visit. I can remember my first years in fly fishing and buying flies every time I went out to fish. In memory serves, I can remember one fishing trip where I lost many, I mean MANY, flies. That was part of the reason I decided to look into tying my own flies. Then I came to a Michigan Fly Fishing Club meeting, and my life changed forever.

Here was a group of folks that not only loved the same sport as me, but also shared so much information and expertise. At every meeting I was just showered with bits of information about flies, rods and reels, places to fish, ways to fish and lets not forget ideas about how to cast better. What a wonderful group. I had been fly fishing, and tying some flies, for a few years when I joined our club, but the education I received from our members was priceless. It just seemed to me that everyone there was so happy to share information and experience. Since then, I have learned so much and tried to share that education in any way I can. In my opinion, this is one of the best aspects of our club. We all share with each other, and we all learn from that sharing.

So here we are in mid-October and the fly tying season is just beginning. If you like to tie flies, bring some items to a meeting and share some patterns. Touch base with Ray Geitka and be one of our guest fly tyers. That tradition has been going on now for about 20 years. It was started back in 2000 or maybe 2001 by yours truly, and since then has spotlighted some really good patterns and some history and tying techniques. It's always a good experience and the patterns are always fun to look at and imagine fishing. Thank you to each guest tyer that has stepped up each month for the past 20 years — another great aspect of our club. And if you have not tried

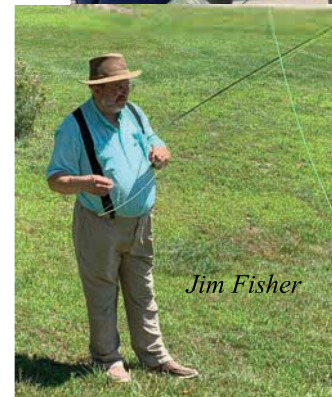
your hand at tying your own flies, then make sure to sit in during the beginners fly tying that also happens at each activity meeting. Another fun time will be had and lots of good patterns and techniques will be learned, then more of us can save money by tying our own flies.

This is really a good time of the year. Our club is back to twice monthly meetings and that makes the winter fly by. Between casting demos, casting lessons, fly tying, and just plain social commentary, this is truly a good part of the year.

So fish if you can, get to meetings and enjoy the shared fun, and get ready for next season, because its not that far off. Only 197 days.

MFFC Annual

## Picnic



Jim Fisher

Scott Freeburg casting contest winner, congratulated by John Eriksson.



# October Speaker Of The Month

Austin Wenke

## Managing Fisheries

By Sybil Hunter

“Growing up, every body of water we passed, I would ask my Mom and Dad, ‘Do you think there’s any fish in that?’” said Austin Wenke, current manager of The Grayling Fish Hatchery in Grayling, Michigan. He said, “In high school I fished Bass tournaments in Kalamazoo.” Taking all the ecology courses he could, he moved on to Lake Superior State University (LSSU) for a fisheries degree.

He worked at the LSSU Aquatic Research Lab for a season, has worked with the Nature Conservancy, worked on the Sturgeon Project, along with fishery projects in Michigan, Wisconsin and Montana. He has even worked at his home town Kalamazoo Fish Hatchery.

After the Anglers of The AuSable settled with Harrietta Hills Trout Farm LLC, to take over the Grayling fish hatchery, make it more ecologically sound, and open it as an education facility, Wenke moved from to Grayling to work in fish management. “This is the first year with the facility,” said Wenke, “The next 15 years, that lease is in our name (The Anglers of the Au Sable).”

“The original goal (of the Grayling Fish Hatchery) was to bring Trout back, fishing back,” said Wenke. According to grayling-mi.com, “The fish hatchery had its beginnings in 1914 when Rasmus Hanson obtained the property on the East Branch of the Au Sable River through timber rights. In 1916 he formed a group of outdoorsmen called the Grayling Fish Hatchery Club. Rasmus served as President, and his wife Margrethe [for whom Lake Margrethe is named] was the secretary/ treasurer. They sold \$5,000 worth of stock certificates for operating funds.” Their goal was to promote conservation education and bring back the fish to the area. They managed

to bring Brook and Brown Trout back to the AuSable river system.

The main building still stands to this day. Steve Sendek, retired DNR fisheries biologist who assisted the No Fish Poop campaign, had an office in that building too. Wenke has sat at those historic desks. He said the hope is to turn the old original building into a museum of fisheries history.

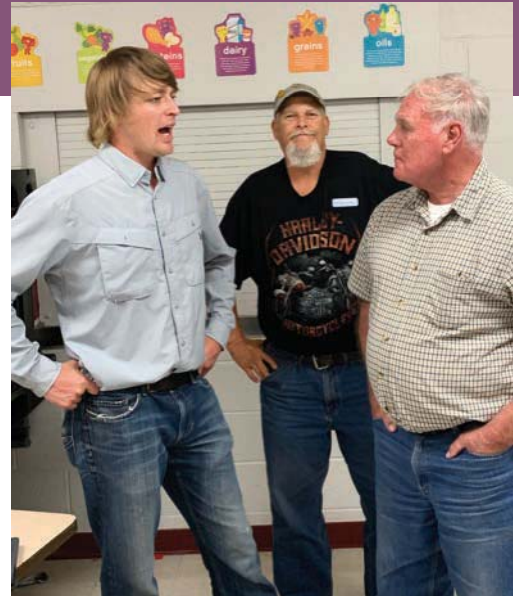
Getting started was not without its trials. Finding a fish supplier, after the court battle to shut down the commercially run Harrietta Hill Trout Farm that would have fatefully poisoned the AuSable River, became politically complicated. Thankfully Wenke found a supplier on the west end of the Upper Peninsula. “I hired an assistant, Seth Roy...he got an internship out of it,” said Wenke, so they could hit the ground running.

Once the fish were procured, the trials did not end. “The prior owner that had the hatchery,” said Wenke, “had never swept the raceways.” The next big job was to sweep out the fish waste filling the runways where the fish were to live. Mid May brought their first arrival. Wenke said one of the raceways had “raceway Rainbows 10 pounds, like a football...that were left behind.”

Next was sand removal. Then came the learning curve. “Everything there was pretty well gutted, so we had to buy supplies,” said Wenke. They found out they needed “hands on deck” to assist the tourists at the catching dinner pond, as visitors had no knowledge of what to do, or how to handle fish. Wenke had to calculate the number of visitor food bags they needed, how much to put in them, then weigh the leftovers daily, in order to assess how much volume was used “so we did not feed the fish too much fish food.”

Throughout this process, the majority of attendees were school groups and families. “Kids are not good about being clean about (handling) fish food,” said Wenke.

There is also a Quiescent Zone of the hatchery. “They are only about 50 to 70 percent efficient,” said Wenke. “They are periodically pumped out by a septic system.” Inactive or not, things still happen. “Momma duck and six



babies slid into one of the raceways,” said Wenke, and Momma hopped out... “When you have six baby ducks stuck in a fish raceway — talk about a goat rodeo trying to get those six babies out of there!” (Plus there were only two of them working that day!)

The slide show continued with a picture of the dam. “If you didn’t have the dam, you’d have about six inches of water in each raceway,” said Wenke. He also noted people have been formulating ideas for fishing connectivity to allow fish passage; nothing has worked thus far.

“I’m kinda an aquatic insect nerd,” said Wenke. “Most people have very little knowledge of aquatic insect collection. Everybody seemed to love the aquatic insects, even if they were in viles, so why not have some live aquariums?”

“Add turtles,” said Wenke. “You say ‘Did you see the turtles?’ and you never know what response you will get. You get a lot of good responses!” Also a fan of the turtles, “My black lab, Sigfied...he was always trying to steal fish from the turtles.”

Discussing the fish. “Bluegills love sneaking the worms off of the barbless hooks,” said Wenke. (Part of the attraction is fish that are allowed to be caught for visitors to take home for dinner.) “There are eight to nine inch Brook Trout. They don’t like people and are easily spooked,” said Wenke. “Brown Trout stay together in a school so when you’re feeding them, *Continued on following page.*”





# Fish Tails

## Managing Fisheries Continued.

you are throwing pellets on a pile of Trout,” and yet “The little buggers like to escape!” Whereas, “Rainbow Trout will literally follow you around like a golden retriever,” Wenke pointed out. “The Browns and Brookies have a low mortality rate.”

“Watching the fish really teaches you a lot,” said Wenke citing how that is precisely the way he learned various fish prefer different food sink rates.

Wenke fielded a question about fish food content which includes chicken meal, grains, crude fat, crude protein and fish meal. “It does not taste good,” Wenke said. “‘Seth said, I’ll eat one if you eat one,’ so I did...and he *didn’t*.” “Was beer involved?” a member asked. “No beer,” said Wenke, as there is a no alcohol rule for the hatchery. “I definitely had a beer afterwards though!”

“Hundreds of kids come over the summer to catch a fish. It’s a good price. \$8 and we clean it for you. It costs less than the grocery.” According to Wenke the “catch your dinner” part of the hatchery is a challenge, not only because of the focus on teaching appropriate interaction with the fish, but the fish catch wise to the activity. “We rotate through worms, fake worms, flies, worms, fish eggs...” and back through the feeding options. When heckled about “tools of the devil,” Wenke gently noted, “nobody really started out fly fishing.”

“We’ve sold about 2,000 fish,” said Wenke, “and about 1,000 have been eaten by predators.” Speaking of predators....“Joyce Haxton fed the fish today,” said Wenke. “There were not one, not two, but three Blue Herons,” slurping on the fish. (We had all secretly hoped Nellie, Haxton’s dog, had flushed the Herons.)

“The fish are fed twice a day plus visitors,” said Wenke. “We use low phosphorus fish food. We were more interested in keeping the fish healthy then bulking them up. The food was all paid for by the visitors.”

“We need to get kids interested and enthusiastic about the sport we all love,” said Wenke. “People don’t know how to care for fish.” The Grayling Fish Hatchery is an opportunity to learn that first hand.

John Pinto

## Sand In My Shoe

I guess you can classify this story under the heading of “one never knows.” It was the early 1980’s, I was working as a sales representative for Fenwick and taking my 5-day turn at the O’Hare Sportsman Show in Chicago. At the time, this was considered one of the top sport-fishing consumer shows in the country and everybody in the tackle business of any consequence was there. I arrived on a Wednesday, the slowest day of the show, and spent most of the day walking around visiting other booths.

I stopped by the Eppinger (Daredevil) booth and visited with my old pal Karen Eppinger. There was another guy standing by the booth who introduced himself as Roger Enhert. He was a big mucky-muck with Muskies Inc., had a business in Indiana and regularly fished the tournaments on Murphy Lake near Millington, Michigan, northeast of Flint. He was the “real deal” when it came to musky fishing with conventional musky gear, but he told me his dream was to catch a musky on a fly rod. I asked about his experience with a fly rod and he replied “absolutely none!” Over the course of the show, Roger was spending more time in the Fenwick booth than the Muskie Inc. booth and we made plans to meet at Murphy Lake that spring. A date was set.

Now what I knew about fly fishing for muskies was absolutely zero, so I enlisted the help of MFFC members Chet Miles and Jim Handley who collectively knew even less. The three of us tied large “can’t miss” streamer flies, created leaders that incorporated wire and brought along our

heaviest fly rods, which at the time were 9-weights. We drove up to Millington with Chet’s canoe tied on top and met Roger at the boat ramp right at about sunrise. We all told Roger that we were embarking on something new to all of us and to not have any expectations. Truer words had never been spoken. The day was clear blue with 80-degree temperatures. I fished with Roger in his “muskie machine” of a boat while Chet and Jim paddled around in the canoe. The three of us threw every newly-created fly while Roger fished his conventional gear with 8” to 10” wooden plugs. All we were getting was casting practice and sun-tanned. I spent all day apologizing to Roger thinking how he left Indiana at 1:00am in the morning to meet us. He said not to worry as he was learning a lot just watching the three of us. He never picked up a fly rod.

At day’s end the total tally was one small bass caught, ironically, on an Eppinger Devle Bug. We packed up the gear, drove into Millington and finished the day with a nice dinner at the local eatery. I never saw or spoke with Roger again.

Fast forward about five years and I am working the Cleveland Sport Show. A great show – the last show of the season – with lots of parties. At one of these parties I ran into Karen Eppinger and we chatted about world events. I asked if she had seen or heard anything about Roger Enhert.

“What the hell did you do to him?” she inquired.

Totally puzzled I replied, “What are you talking about?”

She answered, “After he fished with you he went back to Indiana, sold his business, his musky boat and equipment, divorced his wife and bought a fly fishing lodge in British Columbia!”

For one of the few times in my life I was totally speechless. I finally looked up and replied, “Karen. The fishing wasn’t *that* good!”



# Michigan Fly Fishing Club

## Club Information

### Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board Meeting September 18, 2019

#### Rollcall

Present: Nowicki; Strachan; Oehring; Niemi; S. Hunter; Selinger; Summers; Bada; Vanderhoof  
Absent: Mayes

**Approval of Minutes** - Approved.

**Approval of Agenda** - Approved.

#### Officer Reports

##### President - Nowicki

\*Dave thanked the new board members for participation with the board.

\*Dave asked that we minimize the use of MFFC and use the complete name Michigan Fly Fishing Club on bank and public documents.

\*The continued support of the MUCC magazine Tracks was raised. The board unanimously supported continued support.

\*This is the club's 50th year. Discussion was held about whether the Club should create a special patch or pin for the anniversary. More discussion will be held at our next meeting.

\*We need to find additional support for John Bada who is chairing our Cub banquet this year.

\*Dave announced that Bill Shannon will be heading our audit this year.

\*Kevin Lipp will be the Conservation Committee chair this year.

\*The garage sale will be on December 18, 2019.

\*We need to find someone to lead the beginning fly tying at our Activities Meeting. Spencer Vanderhoof suggested he may be available. Dave reminded us of the special "Townhall" meeting we are having this month.

##### Vice President - Strahan

Bruce reported he is about halfway through his program to digitize copies of The Evening Hatch and other Club history. He also indicated a history of the Club may be available for the anniversary. Several formats were offered by board members.

##### Treasurer - Oehring

The report was accepted as presented.

##### Corresponding Secretary - Hunter

Most speakers are lined up for the year. Only April is currently open.

The new websites are under development. First actions are being done on the Expo site due to need. The work will start on the Club information site next.

##### Membership - Niemi

215 active members. - paid memberships

##### Events & Outings

**Expo** documents for 2020 are being created by Summers.

##### New Business

**Wa Wa Sum:** Bada reported that the summer outing went poorly with most of the signed up participants cancelling due to the Club picnic and Mike Doyle's passing. We need to discuss what to do for next year.

**Girl Scouts Request:** We have received a request to have a "Boy Scout Merit Badge" activity for Girl Scouts. It was felt that offering the Gile Scouts participation in the current Boy Scout classes, in the future, is probably the best way to go. This will be investigated for next year's class.

**Lake Superior State University:** Spencer presented a request to support Lake Superior State University's new Atlantic Salmon and Great Lakes fisheries study facility. The timing is tight due to matching funds only being available till the end of September. No conclusion was reached. The board accepted a motion made by Strachan (7 for, against) to pass the request to the Conservation Committee.

##### Old Business

None.

**Visitor Comments:** None.

##### Roundtable

**Meeting Adjourned at:** 9:28 p.m.

##### Special Meeting

\*Motion was made to rescind the 9/18/19 BOD meeting motion that sent the LSSU fisheries donation request to the Conservation Committee.

\*New motion made to donate \$2000 to LSSU in the name of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club. After discussion, the funds were charged to Education account. The motion passed.

**Meeting Adjourned at:** 7:20 p.m.

*Is It Safe?* Continued.

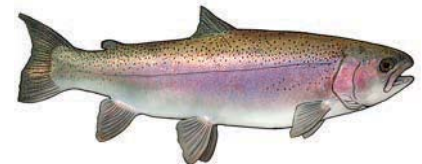
where the lab exponentially replicates the DNA and RNA of a given subject using controlled heat. Certain markers are dyed fluorescent and used for measurement. According to ThermoFisher Scientific, real time PCR means progress can be monitored as it occurs so data can be collected throughout the process, rather than just at the end. This means that in four to six hours, the lab has a real time answer, rather than waiting 24 hours like things used to be. Multiple schools in the state are being outfitted and trained in the qPCR process, that way the sample can be processed at the closest lab, rather than driven across state. "When training up these labs, we had them test the old way and the new way to compare."

"We are actually the first state doing it. They go out in the morning and can post it [safety info] by lunchtime," said Dreelin. "We can figure out the DNA source - human, geese, deer, birds, etc. For example, according to the Memorial Beach testing in July, "They were blaming the geese for these problems, and it turns out they had a sewage problem." Human DNA was the marker.

According to Dreelin, MSU studied E. Coli content during base flow (no storms) by watershed. The risk is low across the state, however the human marker is in present across most of the state. The human marker is more present in areas with septic tanks.

"Do go in the water," said Dreelin. Follow advisories. Wash hands. Avoid suspicious waters. "Check BeachGuard." [www.egle.state.mi.us/beach](http://www.egle.state.mi.us/beach) "Wash your hands. Use alcohol gel — it is very effective. It kills pathogens. Do not use antibiotic gel or antimicrobial gel," as pathogens "get resistant" they do not die from the exposure.

"Carbonation will also kill bacteria, but watch out for ice cubes." Also check the safety of the fish you eat at [michigan.gov/eatsafefish](http://michigan.gov/eatsafefish). "I wouldn't say Michigan is 'pure,' but the risk is low."



### MFFC Special Board Meeting September 25, 2019

#### Rollcall

Present: Nowicki; Strachan; Oehring; Niemi; S. Hunter; Selinger; Summers; Bada; Vanderhoof  
Absent: Mayes

Guest: Chris Hunter

Activities Meeting - Dec 18, 2019



# Michigan Fly Fishing Club

## Club Events



Bob Niemi

### Boy Scout Merit Badge

On September 21st, 22 Club members, 37 Scouts and 20 or so parents and Scout leaders spent nine hours teaching basic skills to a new generation of fly fishers. This was the 13th annual installment of the program where hundreds of Scouts have earned their fly fishing merit badge thanks to the generosity of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club members who run the stations on fly tying, casting, fishing, entomology, knots, regulations/ equipment and yes, actually cleaning and cooking a fish. Yes it is odd that the fly fishing merit badge requires cleaning and cooking a fish, but it is a good life skill and makes for great photo ops!

This course has resulted in many scouts and even some parents (including yours truly) in taking up this great pastime. The Club rented facilities at Multi Lakes this year and held it in September due to a busy spring calendar and a late April Easter. We had our first girl in the scouting program this year and will have many more next year since the US scouting program is now coed like the Scouting programs in the rest of the world has been for years! Many thanks to the generosity of Club members volunteer and provide financial support for this great educational outreach program.



MFFC Raffle

### Winners



Jim Fisher



Rob 9/25/19 New Member



Jerry Deputat



Elmer Jantz



Michigan Fly Fishing Club  
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