



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

NOVEMBER 2014

Tying Au Sable River Flies With Jerry Regan

By Terry Drinkwine

A class act of hilarity, Jerry ReRegangan, professional fly tier, tied and entertained the membership at the November 5, MFFC speaker meeting. By all accounts, his tales of the river are always wonderfully funny. "We were laughing our butts off," said Spencer VanderHoof, who was razed about 'fishing with the big boys."

"He just kept talking and telling sorties and never looked down and kept on tying flies," said Kevin Lipp. What better way to showcase the club's new close-up camera, projected onto the screen behind Regan.

Regan tied Jerry's Drake, his version of the brown drake, showing his personal trick to tie the wings. plus other classic Au Sable river flies.

There was no lack of appreciation for the shadow box displays of his flies and of insect development he made for his sons. He turned down several offers from members to buy them.

"We always have a great time when Jerry comes down!" said Spencer.

A fixture at the MFFC Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, Jerry Regan can typically be found at his table next to Spikes Keg-O'-Nails, another stable in Grayling and with fly fishers who flock to Grayling like pilgrims to Mecca on the last Saturday in April.

Regan made it clear, he fishes because he has to: It's who he is and it was drilled into him by his grandmother – who he credits with teaching him how to fish. "She used to tell me over and over again, keep the fly on the water; that's where the fish are."

He fished and tied flies with some of the deans of the fly fishing world that called Grayling their home and still uses their patterns and techniques. He says he doesn't like to fish with small tippet. "All it does is drop a bird's nest five feet in front of the line because it's too limp to straighten on the cast."

Regan made tying his several patterns look easy. His masterful use of material – both in lay-out and in application – produced, not just a perfect fly, but a clean, every hair in its place, looking fly. It's small wonder his flies are used by guides and discerning fly fishers, many of which were in attendance.

Regan doesn't just dish it out, he can take it too. He told the crowd he doesn't fish with our own Dan Finstad anymore. "Would you fish with a guy who hogs the best spots, constantly tells you what to do, how to do it and is a total control freak? Well, Dan won't either."



December, 3 2014

Garage Sale Meeting

Clarenceville Middle School

Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

December 17, 2014

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Andy Partlo

Topic: TBD

Clarenceville Middle School

Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

January 7, 2014

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Kevin Morolock

Topic: Beaver Island Flats

Clarenceville Middle School



*Jerry Regan's
Hex Hatcher
and
Henderickson Dun*



Yellowstone Trip 2016



It's almost time for sign up for the Michigan Fly Fishing Club annual trip to Yellowstone Park for 2015.

Next year, once again, we have the Slash E Ranch reserved for TWO WEEKS. Yes, TWO WEEKS in 2015, from Saturday August 1st to August 8th, and again Saturday August 8th to August 15th.

Imagine, being right in the center of the Yellowstone area fly fishing. Within a couple hours of our lodge are more than 2000 miles of trout streams. There are also hundreds of lakes and ponds that are open to fishing too. And don't even think about the vast number of species available! There is not only Brook, but Rainbow, Brown and Cutthroat trout, *plus* the wonderful Grayling. Many streams are a few steps from your car, there are streams that are a mile hike from the car and areas best accessed by horse back. All of this is within a short drive from our lodge. The names of the rivers available reads like a travelogue of where to fish in every fly fishers top ten list. Not only the numerous rivers inside Yellowstone Park itself, but hundreds of streams outside the park will beckon you to fish them. This trip truly is one of those adventures that will make you upset you have to choose from so very many opportunities in such a limited time.

This will be our 13th year, and quite frankly, while I was on every trip I have only scratched the surface of the opportunities for places to fish. From dry flies to nymphs, streamers to soft hackles, this trip offers places for just about every kind of fishing for every kind of trout that is imaginable.

The budget this year is about \$475 a person. That fee includes room and board for the *entire week* of our stay, each day's breakfast and dinner are provided for all participants at the Slash E. There are four cabins that sleep various numbers of people for a total of about 20 folks. Each room is double occupancy. As in past years, we already have reservations to visit the east side of Yellowstone Park on both Thursday's of the trip. This allows us to fish some of the farther streams and explore that side of the Park. We stay the night in Cooke City, Montana. That cost is not included in the Slash E Ranch fee. Flights out to Bozeman, Montana run about \$650 a person, rental cars for you and a partner will add \$500 for the week. The total for the *entire week* will run about \$1500 or so.

Sign up this year will be the first meeting of December. No deposit is needed at that time, so come on over and see Al Haxton at the first December meeting and get on the list! You can choose either week - or both weeks. As always, it is on a first come, first served basis and fills up very fast. This year with two weeks available we have twice the room, but don't wait! There are lots of folks already talking about the trip.

See you in December,
Al Haxton



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Corrections: None at this time. Alleluia!

Photos are needed!

Please submit any photos for the Photo Gallery to me.
- Sybil Hunter, Editor of *The Evening Hatch*.

Clown Shoe Caddis

November's Fly of the Month!

By Todd A. Schotts

With the cold northern winds starting to howl, freezing temperatures outside, and the coming of snow, fellow tyers will withdraw to the comfort of our houses. Within the walls of our secluded tying areas, dens, lairs, closets, dungeons, and caves we will start getting ready for next season. With this in mind, our featured fly will take us to dreams of spring Trout fishing.

The fly is called the "Clown Shoe Caddis" (aka Boulder Creek Caddis). I first saw of this fly at Franken Fly (www.fankenfly.com), so naturally I had to tie a few to try them. After great success on various rivers, these flies (in multi sizes and colors) are now a staple in all my fly boxes.

Designed by Jay Zimmerman from Boulder, Colorado, the "Clown Shoe Caddis" was designed to fish all season long - with or without a dropper. This fly imitation is more of an emerging Caddis than a true dry fly, since it sits in the film of the water. It is super buoyant, highly visible, and considered a stalwart of the fly world, since it can be fished alone,

DESIGNED TO FISH ALL SEASON LONG



or used to carry larger dropper nymphs. The cousin to this fly is the "Clown Shoe Sally," which is also great variation.

When caddis emerge they are not strong swimmers and have a hard time getting through the film of the water before they become flying adult caddis. This makes them an easy meal for any fish within eyesight. The "Clown Shoe Caddis," sits down in the film just like an emerging caddis, but the wing and trimmed hackle to create surface area to hold the fly up and visible in the film. The Cerise indicator makes this fly very visible in the film.

If you have not fished or tied this fly, give it a try. Once you do, you will never have enough in your fly boxes. Until next month, tight lines and snazzy flies Todd.



HOOK: TMC 2487 (#12, #14, #16, and #18)

THREAD: 6/0 or 140 denier olive or black

ABDOMEN: Medium D-Rib or V-Rib (Olive, Amber, Chartreuse, Brown, or Clear)

WING: Dun Dyed Yearling Elk Hair

HACKLE: Dun or Grizzly Saddle/Neck Hackle

POST: Cerise McFly Foam

DUBBING: Black Superfine



ROYAL COACHMAN TRUDE

Featured Fly Tyer

By Todd A. Schotts

The search was on, searching high and low for our November featured tyer within our club. With plenty of tyers going through my mind, I was wondering who I should choose, then I walked into the meeting and the tyer appeared in my view, doing what he usually does at all the meetings - tying. This month we welcome Dan "Eggman" Walker.

As mentioned before, Dan is always at our meetings slinging a bobbin and tying up what he is known for: his egg flies. However, at our Activity night in November, he will be moving from the back of the room to the front, bringing to us his world famous "Fligs." If you're wondering, this isn't some new "egg" fly pattern, but the technique that represents "Flies tied on Jig Hooks." I am familiar with tying flies on jig hooks, as in John Barr's Meat Whistle and my crawfish pattern, but Dan brings us is more patterns. He opens our world to more ideas for endless tying possibilities.

Dan has good results (nearly 100%) hooking and holding flies tied on jig hooks when fishing with the barbs broken off. The fish are not hooked deep in the gills, so injuries are very minimal if any and release is quick and easy. The fly fishes with the hook point up. Fishing it deep, it snags less often. Other patterns, in addition to "Fligs," that work great like this are Clousers, any bead head leech, minnows and crawfish patterns.

There are two types of jig hooks to take in consideration. Use 60 degree hooks for most patterns. They cast and retrieve in conventional streamer fishing presentations. Use 90 degree hooks for patterns fished under a float or strike indicator. The exception to this is John Barr's Meat Whistle. Just a word to the wise, hooks with moderate temper, such as Mustad, can be bent as needed. Hooks that are cold set (for example Dai Riki and Togen Hooks) cannot be bent. If you try to bend these hooks, they will break or weaken and break when set.

Come tie some "Fligs!" Bring your tools, vise and note taking material (*the materials and hooks are supplied*) at the November 19th MFFC activity meeting. There, Dan 'Eggman will take you to the world of "Fligs." Until next time, tight lines and snazzy flies.

Jig Hare's Ear Steelhead and Browns under a float or a small morsel for Small Mouths

Hook: #6 or 8 down eye wet, bent up to 60° or 90°

Bead: Large (3/16) round black counter bored bead

Tail: Soft brownish fur, long domestic rabbit, fox, coyote or similar

Rib: Gold Mylar twist

Body: Brown fur blend of spiky dubbing

Hackle: Collar of Soft Hackle like brown phase ruff grouse

Collar: 6/0 Uni Thread, Fire Orange

TIE WITH DAN "EGGMAN" WALKER



Bluegill Leach

Hook: #8 or 10 bent to 90°

Bead: Black medium sized bead

Tail: Black marabou tips

Rib: (optional) any color mylar twist

Body: Mid portion of black marabou

Hackle: Black webby saddle, 2 turns

Collar: Fire Orange thread, 6/0 or 8/0

Crappie Jig Flashy pearl-white-silver.

Steelhead or Browns in big rivers or Bass in shad lakes

Hook: #6 or 4 down eye, bent up 60° to 90°

Bead: Large (3/16) Silver bead

Tail: Pearl angel hair type fine flash material

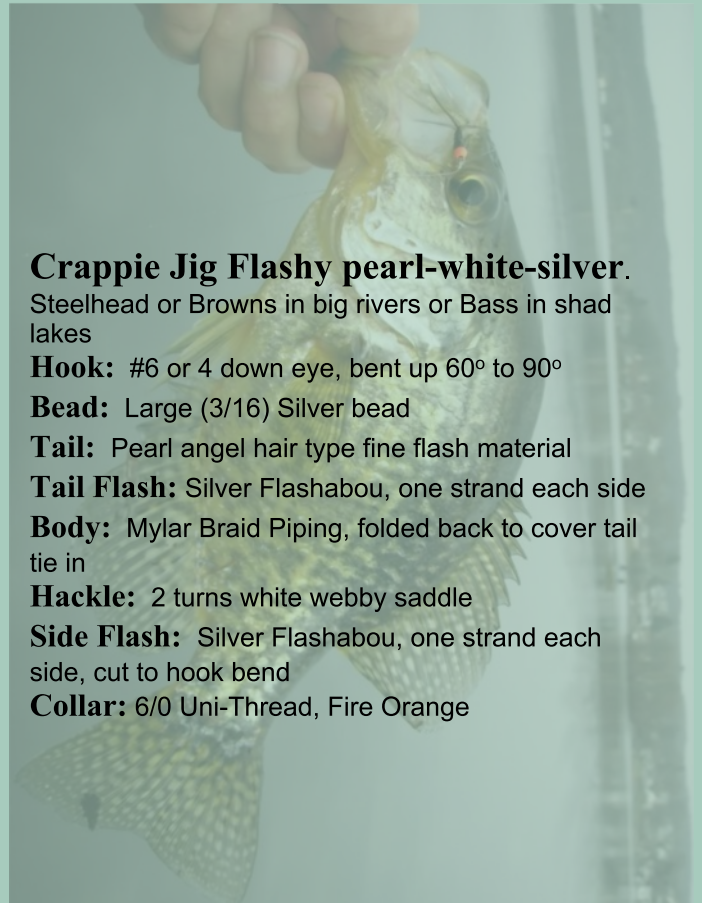
Tail Flash: Silver Flashabou, one strand each side

Body: Mylar Braid Piping, folded back to cover tail tie in

Hackle: 2 turns white webby saddle

Side Flash: Silver Flashabou, one strand each side, cut to hook bend

Collar: 6/0 Uni-Thread, Fire Orange



Two Cents Worth

Jerry Regan

By Terry Drinkwine

Mark Twain, Will Rogers, Yogi Berra ...and then there's Jerry Regan. To some, it may seem farfetched to put Jerry Regan in the illustrious company of these humorists – people who can make a point that sticks with you just by putting a few words together - but, for my two cents, they have nothing on Jerry Regan. Why he hasn't written a book is beyond me.

I consider myself fortunate to know him, fish with him and most of all, I have a conversation with him on occasion. (I say conversation, but the more precise verbiage is, I listen to him.) Like Jerry says, "If you think I'm crazy now, you should have seen me when I was insane."

Jerry Regan is an accomplished fly tier whose flies can be found in fly shops throughout Michigan's fabled trout waters and are used by guides like Chuck Hawkins and others. Jerry ties in the neighborhood of 1,000 *dozen*...that's 12,000 flies a year. I can't sit still for more than a dozen at a time and that takes longer than Seamus is willing to being ignored.

Maybe it's his homespun humor or maybe it's his refusal to go along with the marketing wisdom of promoting "new and improved" stuff, but his ties – some hatch imitations, some classics attractor patterns - are tied with the same materials that were available when he was growing up... which meant stuff stolen from his grandmother's sewing basket, found along the road or hunted. Every fly I've ever seen or heard him explain is tied with natural material: deer hair, feathers and yarn. His Hex patterns are staples and can be seen in a shadow box at Spike's in Grayling and on the wall in the Old Au Sable Fly Shop (Fly Factory.)

Jerry, who fishes more than most of us, but less than he wants to, fishes with the notion of catching fish, not showing off equipment. He's so set in his ways, when he talks about the equipment he uses (reels, line, leaders and tippet) I have to pull out an old Herter's catalog to see what it is. He uses an automatic fly reel so he can control his custom made Au Sable River Boat and fish at the same time; once he pulls line to establish distance, his casts are the same every time. He gets his share of fish, which is evident when you hear the *ziiiiiing* sound of the automatic reel as it picks up line behind you when you're in the front seat of his boat.

The first time I saw Jerry Regan put his boat in the water, I was getting out at Louie's Landing on the Main Branch. He was fishing alone and asked if I wanted to accompany him. I was heading back down state and had to decline. I asked how he was going to fish from the long boat and keep it under control at the same time. He said, "I put gallon jugs filled with water in the bow to keep the weight distributed ...but only pretty jugs get put in my boat." Vintage Jerry Regan.

TD

2015 MICHIGAN FLY FISHING CLUB MEMBER SCHOOL

The school is an all day event from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday February 14, 2015 and will be held at Northville High School.

Sign up for the member's school is now open and will continue through February 11, 2015. Please note that only dues paying members in good standing are allowed to attend the Member School. You can enroll as a student, administrator or instructor by email to miketheflyguy@gmail.com or at club meetings. All club members are welcome to attend.

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

Our instructors are club members who are some of the midwest's finest fly anglers. Many are FFF certified casting instructors, professional guides, avid fly fishers, and they are eager to share their knowledge with other club members.

We offer 2 levels of instruction, for Novice and Advanced students: a Novice student is anyone who has not fly fished or has only fly fished a few times. They are not thoroughly familiar with wadding and fishing safety. They have not attended the Novice class in the past. Note that the Novice class is a prerequisite for the Dick Shott New Member Outing at Wawasum.

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

The chili cook off is open to 6 chefs with a special prize awarded to the winner.

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

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



Member Spotlight

Dan Cronin

Dan is a “grey hair” guy who, as much younger man was a MFFC member in the late 70’s to late 80’s, and was mentored by a member named Jerry Denza. (Does any one know him or know where he is?) He helped me catch my very first steelhead on the Pere Marquette River in 1987. Dan is married to Yoriko and they have a son, Cary, who went through the Order of the Jungle Cock program as a youngster. He is married with a young daughter who will become a world class fisherwoman in the Pacific Northwest! Dan is retired after a career spent mostly in Real Estate Planning and Development. He started fishing at the age of ten, with an 8 ft JC Penny fly rod, mostly drowning worms in the many little creeks around Roscommon where he was raised. After graduation from MSU in the mid-60’s, he was called by Uncle Sam and after Engineer OCS was sent as an assistant post engineer to Japan where he served for three and a half years, returning late 1969.

In 1970, he purchased his first new car (a bright yellow Torino GT), got married, took up fly fishing, sailing and oh yeah...went to work! Along the way, he was fortunate to join a great family oriented hunting and fishing club near Comins, MI (and the “Big Water”), and also shares a small cabin on the “Holy Water” with two partners.

Current activities include the restoration of a 1940 Indian Four motorcycle, and a 1955 Triumph TR 2 Sports Roaster, traveling with his partner of 44 years wherever she wants to go, and on at least a couple of nice fishing trips each year.

Dan is looking forward to getting acquainted with the club’s current membership and thanks Spencer for getting him back into MFFC.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Welcome Steve Oakley!



Dan & one awesome bonefish!

0 to 13 Pound 22 to 24 inch Bonefish 5/6/09 South of the Sun Under Mother's

The deadline for submissions to *The Evening Hatch*, written or photographed, is the fifteenth of each month. Issues are published monthly September through May. A summer issue prints in August. Please submit any print contributions to: evening.hatch.mffc@gmail.com.

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