



The Evening

# Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

November 2019

## Rogue Designer Tells All (well almost)

By Sybil Hunter

"I've got to come up with something different. I've got to figure out what will work, what won't work and what will sell," said John Satkowski of River Raisin Fly Company in Toledo, Ohio, November's guest speaker demonstrating his unique style of tying and fly design. "You need fishability," said Satkowski. "It needs to look sexy for the fish and sexy for the fisher because you do need it to sell."

He ties and designs for Rainy's Premium Flies. "Anybody who's a commercial tyer knows...it takes ages to get 'hot.'" For example, it took Clouser's flies, a mainstay of present day tying, five to six years to become popular.

Satkowski started demonstrating a fly nobody has ever seen before, part of his design arsenal to be submitted for manufacture. "I have something I call... sandwich dubbing," said Satkowski. "It's a help for making some more durable flies." Satkowski piled on dubbing materials, spread them even, and piled on more, layer by layer. He discussed how to use the latest in tools on the market (dubbing loop tweezers)...or simply a



chip clip, to create a sandwich of materials, that is then put in a dubbing loop...and spun.

"The fly should be thinner here (at the back) and thinner at the head, to create a natural taper," said Satkowski. "Sometimes when I have an idea in my head and I start tying it, it looks like a dumpster fire when I get going," he said keeping things real.

Satkowski kept the evening's demonstration interactive. Quick paced, he still took time to explain the why and how of each material...and answer member questions on the fly.

"I always like any kind of Sculpin fly," said Satkowski. "If you have a jigging action to the fly, it kind of helps sell it to the fish."

After quickly discussing "composite looping," Satkowski then demoed his "quick ghetto Bass way of tying it," the one inch flattened layers sandwich of

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## MFFC Calendar



**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.

**December 18, 2019**

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

**January 8, 2020**

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



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materials, originally compiled and dubbed with a toothy chip clip from his kitchen. When queried about the price of material per fly, made with the sandwich, he said is about \$5.40 a fly, which he said would retail for around \$5.50.

Once a fly is chosen by Rainy to be produced, Satkowski creates a detailed video demonstration of his techniques, then his pattern is sent off to Thailand to be tied. The patterns are then assigned to tyers. "You just hope you are high enough in the seniority that you get the Caddis fly," joked Satkowski. (His flies are detailed and unconventional.)

"I'm kinda old school, said Satkowski, "you don't have to have an expensive vice to tie great flies. This is my vice; I got it for \$10 at Cabela's." "Nobody will steal it then!" a Club member shouted from the back. His wire dubbing brush? It retails for \$0.79 at Harbor Freight.

Finishing the fly, he said, "I like to do stuff complicated so I'm going to add some rubber legs." Rubber adds movement and helps the fly sink. He pointed out how a rubber bands make anything sink.

Fielding a question about using head cement Satkowski said, "No. I just use two whip finishes. I still have a fly from my first year that I can still use."

"I started trying to tie when flies I purchased fell apart," said Satkowski. "I made about a 1000 bad flies...then 100 good ones...and the sickness you see started."

When questioned about adjusting flies for different waters...

"I want that back end to move like a Beyonce video," said Satkowski, because, "If I've got a big clump of deer hair it's going to float like a pile of junk. You don't have to be the best caster in the world or the best fly fisher to use one of



my flies, I build in a lot of action."

Dennis Brukwinski asked about accessing design functionality. "I guarantee if you grab a bunch of flies and throw them in the fish pond (at Cabela's) — they're going to throw you out," said Satkowski. "You can't test them." Although, "In a perfect world everything is even. Check if the eyes are even. Check if the deer hair is even. Be careful with the flanks." Otherwise the fly unnaturally capsizes. When his flies are chosen for production, he is sent samples from the factory to test to let them know what is wrong or "messed up."

Fielding another question: How many of those flies can you tie in an hour? "Maybe three," said Satkowski. The flies he demonstrated were large and involved. "What is the name of the fly you tied?" asked Brukwinski. "I don't have a name for it yet. Although "Raiders Of The Lost Carp actually got picked!" said Satkowski. (His little boy likes watching Raiders of The Lost Ark with him.) "So as far as I'm concerned, that's my best fly!"

"Does color matter?" asked another Club member. "Color matters - to a point," said Satkowski. "I've never seen a bright green crayfish, but I've caught fish on a bright green crayfish. I know it works. I don't know why. It just works."

"When you are tying commercial stuff, it's got to be exciting to people."

Members

## On The Fly



*Spencer Vanderhoof on the Manistee.*



*Dan Finstad on the Manistee*



*Lake Superior State University's Roger Greil, Spencer Vanderhoof, LSSU's Ashley Moerke, professor of fisheries research, in Sault Sainte Marie, MI.*



# MFFC Business



## Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Board Meeting October 9, 2019

### Rollcall

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

**Approval of Minutes** - Approved.

**Approval of Agenda** - Approved.

### Officer Reports

#### President - Nowicki

\*Town Hall meeting had 8 participants, went well.  
\*T. Herron agreed to continue teaching casting on Activities Nights.  
\*Audit Instructions disseminated.  
\*An email from Metroparks received asking if we would be interested in holding Fly Fishing classes at some, or all of the parks. The Board agreed to continue to investigate this request.  
\*D. Begley is willing to continue to tech the Beginners Fly Tying on Activity Nights.  
\*A brief discussion was held about the format of the upcoming "Joe Sattler Estate Sale. at next Wednesday's Activity Meeting. We will use a set up like the annual garage sale, but sales will not be allowed until after the usual start of the meeting announcements.

#### Vice President - Strachan

A proposal was made by C. Hunter to authorize \$500 for the training of casters who would then be able to administer and train Club members for the FFI Casting Challenge.

#### Treasurer - Oehring

Treasurer's report was accepted as received.

#### Corresponding Secretary - Hunter

\*The Summer Hatch is ready for distribution.  
\*Website work is under way. The Expo site will be the first one revised.  
\*Attempting to get Bob Jacklin as May 2021 Banquet speaker.

#### Membership - Niemi

Currently 303 paid members. 328 including board, comps, and associate members.

### Events & Outings

**Expo Letters** are scheduled to go out this weekend. This year we added a non-profit rate which is half of the normal rate. This will be offered to exhibitors which meet our criteria.

**Expo Social Media** efforts are being made, along with new Expo website work, along with news, TV

and radio.

### New Business

**Increasing Volunteerism:** Nowicki started discussion on increasing volunteerism within the Club. It was felt that personal interaction, or "nudging" new members, seemed to be the most successful way. Additional discussions will be held.

### Old Business

**50th Year Memento:** A discussion was held re: the Club providing a 50th year patch or pin. It was agreed that it should be given to every 2020 member.

**Girl Scouts:** will be invited to participate in the next year's Scout's Merit Badge classes.

**Visitor Comments:** L. Dixon commented that he is unable to chair the 2020 Youth School if it is held on the traditional first Saturday in May. He proposed to hold the Class on the third weekend of June. The Board agreed that this is okay if enough staff are available. Len will investigate with the usual participants.

### Roundtable

**Meeting Adjourned at:** 9:12 p.m.

## What Do You Know Of MFFC

# History

A history of the MFFC is being compiled based upon issues of the Hatch, interviews and recorded events. As a member, you can add to this history by offering your recollections of people and events.

Our back issues of The Evening Hatch are incomplete so your additions to the missing newsletter history would be invaluable. Your *personal* comments however are the most sought after contributions.

All physical records will be returned and credit to contributors will be made.

Please contact Bruce Strachan 248-346-6391 to help out. Thanks!



### 2018 – 2019 Officers

#### President:

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#### Vice President:

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# November Fly Of The Month



Partridge K3A Swedish Dry Fly Hook

Gary LaFontaine's

## Dancing Caddis

By Todd A. Schotts

For this month's fly pattern, I am going back a few years. It is a unique pattern that is a blast to tie, very effective with Trout, and is a simple pattern to sling bobbins to. I love tying this in its different variations. My fly boxes usually have some of these morsels inside them. This is none other than famed The Dancing Caddis by Gary LaFontaine.

If you are not familiar with late Gary LaFontaine, then here is the river report on probably one of the most creative and brilliant minds ever in the world of fly tying. Gary grew up in Connecticut, and at age 8 the writings mention he caught his first fish on a fly. Then at age of 15 he published his very first fishing article. As an adult, he and his wife migrated to the Montana area. His writings and knowledge of how materials effect the way it appears in the water on a fly are mesmerizing. The one book I feel changed the way we looked at the world of Caddis, and how to tie flies to make them act and look like the real thing is Caddisflies. Some of the other books are Challenge of the Trout (his first book), The Dry Fly: New Angles (his third book) which was eye opening on dry flies, Trout Flies: Proven Patterns (his fourth), and his last book Fly Fishing Mountain Lakes, plus his video tapes, DVD's, and the various videos on UTube. Unfortunately in 2002, he lost his battle with Lou Gehrig's Disease, but he leaves a legacy in the world of fly fishing and tying that will never be surpassed.

The two most famous flies Gary is known

for is LaFontaine's Deep Sparkle Pupa and LaFontaine's Emergent Sparkle Pupa. He has revolutionized fly tying with his various abundance of patterns. That is where this month's fly pattern The Dancing Caddis comes into the picture. With his various studies of caddis, he noticed when they either laid eggs or became spinners, that their true appearance was flush in water and left a full imprint into the surface of the water. Gary studied the dying females to get the true knowledge for this fly pattern. One thing that he noticed, that traditional fly patterns the hook acted like an anchor and hindered the fly to act like the female caddis's he studied. With his studies of the natural flies, he decided he needed to invert the hook to make it keel over or have the hook point riding up. This would let the pattern skate and flutter on the surface without any interference from the hook, to look more natural.

The original hooks he used were Swedish dry fly hooks that were designed in Sweden by Nils Eriksson and Gunnar Johnson. These hooks had an unusual kink about an 1/3 the way back from the eye. Hook manufacture Partridge first made them in 1979 (Partridge K3A Swedish Dry Fly Hook). Now you cannot find these hooks, or if you do they can be very expensive, but Gamakatsu has the C-16B Cripple/Emerger Hook which is very close to the original hooks. Plus, if you watch various videos online, I have seen these tied on regular dry hooks 2x long and 1x strong or even natural curve 3x hooks. Using the non-kinked hooks, the fly doesn't get the same exact movement that Gary's original patterns did. Whichever hook you decide to use, make sure it is a light wire hook with a wide gap. The hook is a very important aspect with this fly. The other very important aspect is the deer hair wing. When tying the wing, the wing should be

## Dancing Caddis



**HOOK:** Gamakatsu C-16B Sizes 14 – 18

**THREAD:** Olive 80 Denier or 8/0

**ABDOMEN:** Micro Fine Dubbing, BWO Olive

**WING:** Coastal All Purpose Deer Hair

**HACKLE:** Grizzly Dyed Dun

pronounced enough for a tent shape. With all of this put together, the focus is more on the width of the silhouette, than the length of the fly pattern, so as to make it effective.

The best way to fish this inverted caddis candy is to remember that the bigger sizes should be skittered across the surface for stillwaters. The smaller one's fish like and other dry fly patterns. You want to make sure you have a good drift on your fly in moving waters, as in skittering, skating, or just a dead drift. I have always liked casting across and letting it dead drift down the river like a spinner. You cannot go wrong fishing this pattern during one of the notorious caddis hatches for sure.

However you fish it, plan on tying some of these tiny Trout morsels up for your next year's arsenal of flies to match the caddis hatch. Until next month, tight lines and snazzy flies.



# November Featured Tyer

Salmon Camp's

## The Crystal Bullet

By Scott Freeburg

This past September I was fortunate enough to be invited again to John Beuter's infamous Salmon Camp on the Pere Marquette River.

Salmon Camp is not an MFFC outing but has been a reoccurring event for the past 29 years. The camp was founded on the concept of "This is too much fun to keep to ourselves" and is sponsored by John and Rhonda Bueter, who own the Cloud Nine Motel in Baldwin Michigan.

This year the salmon were huge with most averaging between 30 and 40 pounds. Most of the fishing was done after dark when the salmon were more active and aggressive.

Unfortunately neither myself or fishing buddy Bob were able to land any of the Salmon hooked. But, during the day on Saturday, Bob did land a nice Brown Trout on a fly we learned to tie at camp. At least we came home without a skunk smell on us.

Evidently that magic fly has been a staple at Salmon Camp for many years with numerous articles, recipe reprints and videos done on it. It's called the Crystal Bullet and has a lot of similarities to a Thunder Creek minnow.

I really enjoyed learning to tie them, not only because they were fairly simple, but because they caught fish.

Scott Freeburg – Past President and Board Member MFFC.



For my session at the vise as the November Featured Tyer, I will share with you:

**"The Crystal Bullet....."**

*The Crystal Bullet*



**HOOK:** #4 or #6 heavy wire Streamer or Salmon Hook

**THREAD:** 3/0 or flat waxed nylon fluorescent pink

**BODY:** Various colors of sparkle braid or pearl diamond braid

**WING & TAIL:** Pearl Flashabou and/or Glow in the Dark Flashabou

2020

## Member's School

**2020 Member School**

**Students & Volunteers Wanted**

February 8, 2020 from 9:00am - 3:00pm at Clarenceville HIGH School

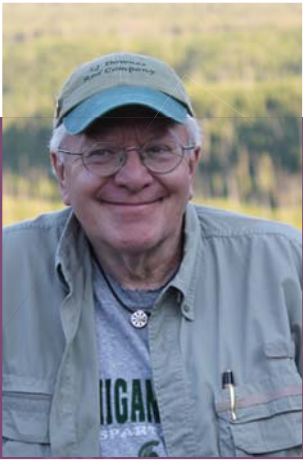
(Across the street from where we meet)

If you are interested please contact:

Chris Hunter, (734) 233-8025 (cell) or [attyhunter@gmail.com](mailto: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. We are also seeking volunteers who would assist checking people in and helping our instructors with the classes.





# Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Marathoner

Al The Hackleman

## Sitting & Thinking

Well the snow came early this year, snow north and south here in Michigan so the winter cannot be far behind. Many of you know that Joyce and I burn a lot of wood each winter to help with heating costs. I must admit that part of the reason I love wood heat is just sitting and watching the flames as they dance around in the fireplace. I am quite sure this enjoyment is a throwback to ancient time, but I love it anyway. So I sit and watch the flames and sometimes watch the TV and contemplate life and how good it is.

I sit and think about things that really brought us enjoyment this year, and things that I hope will bring more enjoyment next year too. Fishing is a huge part of our life here and that is one of the subjects we discuss frequently. We truly consider ourselves so very lucky to be here in Michigan. The fishing is wonderful and so very diverse that there is almost always a new place to fish or a new type of fish to try for. All of us can truly just drive a while and have lots of different opportunities to fish. Between the Huron River and the wonderful inland lakes that seem to be everywhere, we have lots of spots to wade fish, float-tube fish, or use an actual boat to fish. Between the Panfish that start eating early to the Bass and other large species, then onto the Trout and finally Steelhead and Salmon each fall, we truly have so many different fish we can catch that we probably need more fly rods and boxes full of flies.

Each winter Joyce and I try to sort of 'organize' our flies and the boxes that carry them for us. Each year we try a new idea and work our way through the boxes of flies. Most years this requires some new fly boxes for the new idea of how to get organized. We have talked about this with friends and sometimes they have some great ideas too. Sometimes our new idea of organization requires tying of more copies of specific patterns. We tend to fish some patterns in different times of the year and even in different parts of the country. More notes to be made and flies to be tied. I do think that sometimes it gets a bit overboard, but as Rusty Gates used to say, "It's all good."

We also make notes on what 'secret spots' we fished the past season and what ones we want to fish next season. We have recently tried finding some new 'secret spots' and have been making notes about places we have passed and have put these new spots on another list for next year. So much record keeping. One idea we got from a friend is how to hide the 'secret spot' list from spies. I cannot tell you where the list is kept, just understand that a very complex password is needed to open the file. In fact it's so very complex that I don't even try to remember it, that is Joyce's job. Of course our house is named "Secret Spot" so that sort of tells all where we are.

I really do think some of the best stuff in our lives has come from our club, The Michigan Fly Fishing Club. Between new friends and new fishing buddies, new flies to tie and all the wonderful social activities, I am just so thankful to have found MFFC. We have so many members that just love to share their experiences and knowledge of our sport that the learning never ends. Saltwater, freshwater, big rivers, small rivers, ponds and lakes, they all fish great

and they all fish differently....and they all require different flies. During this winter, think about all the different trips our club offers. Between the early season fishing on the Huron River to Opening Day, the Smallmouth Bass outing, the New Members outing in Grayling, the fishing out in Brighton during the summer, the Yellowstone Trip each year, and of course the many small groups that fish all over our state, there are more opportunities to learn and meet new friends and explore new types of fishing. We are all so very fortunate to have our great club.

The Yellowstone trip for 2020 will have 3 weeks of adventures and fun. Week #1 is Saturday August 1 to Saturday August 8. Week #2 will be Saturday August 8 to Saturday August 15. Week #3 will be Saturday August 15 to Saturday August 22. The budget is about \$550 a person per week. Joyce and I will be at the first MFFC meeting in December to start the sign up process. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me via email or stop by at the meeting.

New folks are always welcome.

Just one other thing I need to be thankful for. I thank Sybil Hunter for being our Hatch editor and for reminding me about articles I need to write. But mostly for allowing me to send stuff late and not kicking me when we meet up.

See you all in December. Stay warm and drive safe.

A Moment Of

## Gratitude

This thank you is for everyone who submits information to The Evening Hatch. A special thanks for all the stalwarts who provide monthly submissions.



# Michigan Fly Fishing Club

## Club Events



John Pinto

### Sand In My Shoe

In the film *TAPAM* – the movie about two Danish fly fishermen who travel to the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua to fish tarpon out of float tubes – Daniel is quoted as saying “There are new places to be found.” He is so right. Reflecting back to the 1970’s and ‘80’s I was among the first to wade the flats of several different Bahamian islands. My pioneering spirit followed me to Nicaragua where again I was among the first to show up with fly rod in hand. I spent time in pangas on the Pacific coast chasing Roosterfish, small Tuna, Mackerel and Dorado. I still do! But the Atlantic coast has it all for the fly angler. Large Tarpon, baby Tarpon, Permit and Snook are found in the dozens of rivers, lagunas and esteros and to search out these remote areas is what has kept me going all these years.

I have fished all the known places like the Rio San Juan, Rio Prinzapolka and Top Lock for large Tarpon and the Cayos Perlas for Permit. But while the fishing in these areas has been exciting, I always wonder what is around the next bend. Where is it more remote? I pour over maps and study images on Google Earth doing my research as to where I will fish next. My pioneering spirit has not waned over the years and I hope it never will.

In my crosshairs right now is a place called Laguna Bismuna, a large lagoon near the Nicaraguan/Honduran border on the Atlantic coast. I have been told this area might hold the best potential for fly fishermen. Google Earth images show

nothing – no houses or other other structures – in this lagoon. The closest village is Bismuna which sits on a river feeding into this lagoon and to get to Bismuna one has to fly to Waspam, the capital of the Miskito Indian nation, on the banks of the Rio Coco which separates Nicaragua from Honduras. There are two flights per week on La Costena, Nicaragua’s in-country airline, and the road from Waspam to Bismuna looks passable during the dry season (December through May) when the Tarpon are in-shore.

I will be checking this out next dry season. I will fly to Waspam and find a ride to Bismuna. I will hope there is a decent place to stay and eat and hopefully will find a fisherman with a panga who for a few dollars will show me around the laguna. I will bring images of Tarpon, Permit and Snook so that he knows what I am looking for. I could be on the verge of the next great Tarpon and Snook fishery or it could be a total bust. No guts! No glory!

Another area I am researching is the west side of the Yucatan Peninsula between Ciudad del Carmen and Merida. This is an easy area getting to as there are daily flights from Mexico City. There are fly fishing operators around Campeche which I plan to avoid, and again find a fisherman who knows the areas where the baby Tarpon are found. I feel there is great potential here to establish a baby Tarpon fishery for MFFC members. I have had some great fly fishing over the years by following the path less traveled. In fact, the path hardly followed at all. If you share my wanderlust and look to do your own pioneering, I always welcome a sidekick or two. Finding a new fishery is a game, a game with no guarantees - as the Spanish saying goes...*un dia pollo, un dia pluma!* (...one day chicken, one day feathers!)

2020

### Events & Outings

- Ultimate Fishing Show** (Jan 9-12, 2020)  
*Tracie Partridge*
- Members School** (Feb 8, 2020)  
*Chris Hunter*
- White River Trip** (Feb 24-28, 2020)  
*Scott Freeburg*
- Outdoorama** (Feb 27-Mar 1, 2020)  
*Spencer Vanderhoof*
- Midwest Fly Fishing Expo**  
(Mar 14-15, 2020)  
*David Mayes & Craig Summers*
- Trout Tune Up** (Apr 4, 2020)  
*Scott Freeburg*
- Public School** (Apr 11, 2020) *Chris Hunter*
- Trout Opening Weekend** (Apr 23-27, 2020)  
*Scott Freeburg*
- Trout Opener** (April 25, 2020) *Al Haxton*
- Youth School** (May 2, 2020) *Len Dixon*
- Dick Schott New Member Outing**  
(May 6-9, 2020) *Steve Selinger*
- MFFC Banquet** (May 20, 2020) *Jon Bada*
- Smallmouth Outing** (May 14-17, 2020)  
*Rene Gall*
- Wa Wa Sum Lodge for families**  
(July 15-18, 2020) *Jon Bada*
- Club Picnic** (July 18, 2020) *John Erikson*
- Montana Week 1** (Aug 1-8, 2020)  
*Al Haxton*
- Montana Week 2** (Aug 8-15, 2020)  
*Al Haxton*
- Montana Week 3** (Aug 15-22, 2020)  
*Al Haxton*
- Possible Montana Week 4** (Aug 22-29, 2019)  
*Al Haxton*
- Au Sable River Clean Up at Gates**  
(Sept 12, 2020) *Al Haxton*
- Boy Scout School** (TBD) *Bob Niemi*

Speaker Meeting: Hunter Hayes - Jan 8, 2020



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