



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

December 2015

Plan Ahead Before Fishing Waters

By Sybil Hunter

“People ask me...How do you go to a new location and guide it right off the bat?” said Drew Rosema, a licensed guide in Michigan, Wyoming and Alaska, at the MFFC December speaker meeting. The answer? Pick a target species, take into account their behavior for the time of year you are there, identify the local food sources, identify qualities of the type of water you will fish, read the water, then select a tactic.

“If you wanna do well fishing, make a plan,” said Rosema. Come prepared with the equipment you will need. Do the research before you arrive. (Rosema suggests using Google Earth to identify riffles, etc.) Have realistic goals. Enjoy the process of learning. “What you learn on one piece of water can really reflect what you do on another piece of water.”

“Pick a target species...it enhances your chance of success. A lot of times the conditions can help. Different types of water may offer better options for one (species) or the other,” said Rosema.

No matter what the species, “Double rigs are really, really useful tools,” said Rosema. “Honestly if there is not a hatch going on, there is no reason to not use a double rig. Attractor flies are very useful.” Otherwise? “Streamers work really well for searching water.

Streamers work really well for little fish, just fish close to the bank, close to structure.”

“Cutthroat trout are fishers and guides best friends...they are opportunistic feeders and are very cooperative,” points out Rosema.

The time of year effects the water temperature, food sources, weather conditions and water levels. Looking these up is “basically just doing your homework.”

Fall. “Spawning is in the fall. Cover water as fast as you can. You can catch a mixed bag in the fall.”

Winter. “It’s really consistent in the winter time. Colder water temps cause Steelhead to react slower. Picking an area and really picking it apart is really good at that time of year. There is a lot better fishing in shallower waters. Fish a softer, more natural color scheme.”

Spring. “In spring, a fry pattern is a major source of food. Major water events can make for tough fishing. Another overlooked event is drop-back Steelhead, they get really, really aggressive after they spawn.”

Identify the food sources. “I like to turn over a lot of rocks. Look in spider webs along the banks,” advised Rosema. “When you fish a new

MFFC Calendar



December 16, 2015 Activities Meeting & Garage Sale

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

January 6, 2016 Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Tom Baird
Topic: Au Sable River Update
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

January 6, 2016 Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Tom Baird
Topic: AuSable River
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

January 20, 2016 Activities Meeting

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



"Notice their eyes really pop out... people don't think eyes matter on flies ...but look!"



In Memoriam

Peter Cesaro Jr.



Focus on a section of water.

Be Prepared

stream, just pause and look around." Rosema noted, "I only use a stomach pump if I'm really, really having a really hard time."

As for water, Rosema said, "Spring creeks are the epitome of fishing." However, whatever the target location, read the water. "Food sources can change where fish set, and alot of times water temperature is overlooked."

Tidal water. "There is a huge biodiversity. Trout may be very selective...and are subject to unnatural water events."

Pocket water. "Fish have to rest somewhere so if you can find a nice slick spot, there are fish...alot of times this is overlooked in the winter. Fish like to hotel in front of rocks," said Rosema.

Riffles. "Riffles are waders best friends. Riffles are long broken stretches of water. Cutthroat love riffles, especially during spring. Mayflies lay in

the riffles."

Undercut banks. "You can really catch a lot of great fish in undercut banks. They often hold large fish."

Pools. "Pools are kinda the bane of my existent as a guide," said Rosema. "There can be fish in pools, but usually fish are using a pool to hide (not feed)."

Wood. "Wood is every angler's friend. A single log, a lot of times, can be better than a log jam. It can create pocket water. An overhanging tree is always a safe bet." Rosema added, "Steelhead really like perpendicular logs."

Eddies. "Feeding trout like to be in eddies," said Rosema. "If they miss the food the first time it will float by again. Cutthroat also love eddies."

Over looked areas? Inside bends. Current shifts. Mid-river structures. Weed beds. Secondary seams. "This is pretty much what I focus on the most," said Rosema.

The bottom line? Plan ahead.

Featured Guest Columnist



Memorial

Peter Cesaro Jr.

Another Vice Silenced

On August 28 our club lost yet another member, Peter Cesaro Jr., after a courageous battle with cancer. For a lot of us, he was a great friend that was always there for you, or a fellow club member that was always eager to learn more about the sport of fly fishing or the craft of fly tying. For his family he was a caring father, loving husband, amazing brother, and wonderful son. I know when I was approached to write this, I gladly accepted to honor someone I can call my friend.

For most of us who attend club meetings religiously, we always saw Peter with a bunch of raffle tickets, and in turn, his frequent trips up to the raffle table to pick out prizes when one of his many ticket numbers were called. Or you may tied next to him at the tyer's tables on our activity nights. Or maybe you visited him at the Expo Club Tyers Booth. Or maybe you fished with him at the Smallmouth Outing, or with his daughter at our Youth School. However you remember Peter, he approached things in life, just like the raffle tickets he always purchased, and that goes for his tying materials as well.

I have to share with you, a tale from one of the many times we headed down to Toledo to the home of the late Chris Helm, with Peter and the rest of the Wayward Tying Gang. It wasn't the educational trip in the car, the venture over to "Dales" in Maumee afterwards for a great burger, nor going to Anderson Market for Yeungling Beer (although all of those were very interesting) that made that trip. It was Peter!

Chris Helm had a deer hair class on the Saturday, a week before they were coming

in to start moving the Whitetail material out. When class was over, it was time for all of us to shop. Most of us restrained ourselves from melting our credit cards, but knowing Whitetail was moving to another state, Peter decided to melt his card!!! Remember that whatever we bought, Chris had to replace since everything was inventoried. All I remember hearing was Chris mumbling something about all the items he had to replace, while adding up Peter's final invoice. That was the first time I ever saw anyone leave there with a HUGE box full of materials; good thing the fish mobile has a lot of room!

Besides being avid fly tyer and attending our clubs functions, Peter was also a highly regarded member of Multi Lakes Conservation Club. There, he participated in shooting activities, worked on the ranges, and tied at the informational tying nights. We all enjoyed tying with Peter.

For all of us, we knew Peter as a club member and outdoorsman. However, Peter was big into building race cars and working the race circuit. I never really knew how much until looking at the pics at his memorial and posted on his Facebook page from fellow co-workers and friends. Peter's younger brother told me, GM had Peter take a Pontiac Aztec and make it into a hot rod for GM that would make a Mustang cry and wet the garage floor from fear. This car was displayed at different events around town, including the Dream Cruise. Peter was also very highly regarded auto mechanic for the former "Tonight Show Host & Comedian," Jay Leno.

Whatever Peter did, working on cars, tying flies, shooting competitively, fly fishing, hunting, being a dad, husband, son, brother, friend, or fellow club member he will surely be missed. I know the tying nights, the raffle at our meetings, and the Smallmouth Outing won't be the same without his presence. Rest in peace my friend may your lines always be tight, God bless.



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December Fly Of The Month

Pattern by Cathy Beck

A Woolly Bugger on steroids!

Super Bugger

By Todd A. Schotts

Our December fly, is from the same fly box theme as last month - the (Woolly) Bugger family. The best way to introduce this fly is... "It's a Plane... It's a Bird... It's a Super Bugger! Yes that's right, I said "Super Bugger!" No this fly won't save you if you are held hostage by Lex Luther or the Brainiac, nor will it be useless near kryptonite, but if you're looking for a great streamer for Bass or Trout, this would be your fly.

Cathy Beck, part of the super duo Barry and Cathy Beck, created this fly. The Beck's fortress is located by the mountains of Northeastern Pennsylvania. If their names sound familiar, they should, they were our banquet guest speakers in 2007. During fly tying, we actually tied this amazing super hero streamer. Aside from fly tying and selling flies, the Becks also have a guide service, blog, and are world renown for their photography.

Barry Beck best described this fly as, "The Super Bugger is a hybrid Woolly Bugger." The idea Cathy had, was to design a fly to create more underwater vibration, or noise, as the fly is stripped. Just like its grandfather the Woolly Bugger, the Super Bugger incorporates a marabou tail, but that is where the family

resemblance ends. The Super Bugger body has a series of tightly palmered grizzly dyed hen body feathers. Then there is the addition of sili, or silicone, legs tied in behind the lead eyes. With the dubbed head of the fly, I can contest that when this fly gets wet, everything about it looks alive. What Cathy set out to achieve, she did! Use black, tan, and olive colors. The Becks say black is great in off-colored water and low light situations. Tan and olive work great in any water that has a crayfish population.

A couple of tying tips would be to use Marabou Shorts (otherwise known as blood feathers) as they more efficient than buying normal marabou; the other great tip is if you are using painted lead eyes or painted bead chain eyes, always coat the eyes with Sally Hansen's Hard as Nails. This will help to protect the eyes from chipping.

When fishing these flies, look for structure such as an undercut banks, submerged boulders or logs - anything that provides cover and protection. Like Woolly Buggers, Super Buggers can be fished an abundance of ways depending on water conditions and temperature.

This fly is a Woolly Bugger on steroids, so when fishing this fly, use at least a 6 weight fly rod. One thing you do not want to do when fishing a weighted-eyed fly like this one, is bounce the weighted fly off the tip of your rod. Make sure you open up your casting loop. One mistake like that will damage, or as I have seen on Eagle Bay, break your fly rod tip.

If you are interested in their guide service, on-line store or blog, then check out the Beck's web site at www.barryandcathybeck.com. Until next month, Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.

Super Bugger



HOOK: 1X Long Nymph sizes 4, 6, & 8 (Daiichi 1560, TMC 3761, Mustad 3906B, Dai-Riki 060)

TAIL: Tan, Black or Olive Blood Feather (optional) overlay 6 strands Krystal Flash in corresponding color.

THREAD: 6/0 or 140 Denier - tan, black, olive

BODY: Hareline dyed grizzly hen body feathers in tan, black or olive.

LEGS: Two rubber silicone or sili-legs -- Root beer, black or olive.

EYES: Lead eyes painted yellow and black. XS on size 8, small on size 6/4 or Bead Chain eyes painted yellow

HEAD: Spiked dubbing figure-eight around the eyes.



December Garage Sale

Featured Members

Sign Up For MFFC's

Members School

The school is an all day event from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday February 13, 2016 and will be held at Northville High School.

Sign up for the Member's School is open and will continue through February 11, 2016. 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 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 two levels of instruction: Beginning and Advanced students. A Beginning Student is anyone who has not fly fished or has only fly fished a few times, is not thoroughly familiar with wading and fishing safety, and has not attended the Novice class in the past.

Keep in mind, 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 recently.

The chili cook off is open to six 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.

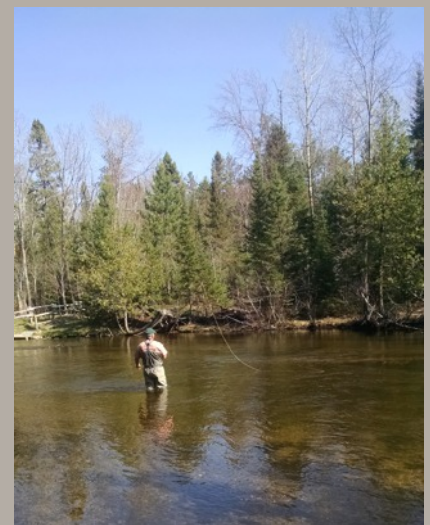
Contact Chris Hunter or Mike Doyle at club meetings or via email miketheflyguy@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Members On The Fly

Around The State



Jim Calvin and Bill Shannon during Bill's birthday float at Gates' in October.



Frank Kunick fishing the AuSable at the Wa Wa Sum outing.

-picture submitted by John Beach

January Speaker Preview

Tom Baird is the current president of the Anglers of the Au Sable.

Josh Greenberg is the owner of Gates' Au Sable Lodge. He is a board member of the Anglers of the Au Sable, and the editor of the Anglers newsletter, "The Riverwatch."

They will be bringing us up to speed on the state of the river and issues the Anglers are dealing with on behalf of the river and its environments.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events

Bring on the Bass!

Small Mouth Outing



Activities Meeting - January 20, 2016

Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board Meeting October 14, 2015 at 7:30 pm

Roll Call

Present: Vanderhoof, Telinda, Nowicki, Oehring, Bocks, Doyle, Freeburg, Finstad, Hunter
Absent: Drinkwine
Visitor: Mike Matuszewski

Approval of Minutes - Approved
Approval of Agenda - Approved

Officer Reports

President - Finstad

Joe Humphries Jeff Carrier, Skip Morris
Jason Randall, Ed Engle contracted
Expo speakers

Vice President - Freeburg

The Mystic Fly Rod Volunteer of the year award to be presented to Todd Schotts at next mtg.

Treasurer - Oehring

Approval of Treasurer's report
Audit Committee Results- Mike Matuszewski. Previous recommendations followed. New recommendations made.

Corresponding Secretary - Vanderhoof

Brian Kozminski will speak in April on Northern MI rivers. All spots filled through banquet.

Hatch - Sybil Hunter

Sept/Oct Hatch complete. To be disseminated ASAP.

Website - Briggs

Nothing to report.

Membership - Nowicki

454 members. 325 paid. 125 not paid for current year.

Events & Outings

Events Calendar complete. Doyle reports all final dates to be published in on website and in Hatch. Spring Steelhead outing 2016 TBD.

Lansing FFF event upcoming. Bill Shannon in need of event tyers.

Banquet Chair Team members still needed.

New Business

3rd Annual TU Holiday gathering Dec 8, 6:30-9:30. Tickets \$25. Dinner, open bar, speaker Seth Herbst. Contact Dan Finstad. Fishing guide ad not renewed. Grayling Public Library contacted MFFC for display. Spencer researching.

Old Business

Club/School rod purchase approved. Royal Oak School first meeting Oct 15, 2015. MFFC volunteers giving presenting.

Visitor Comments - see above



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events

Great Lakes Hatchery Research

By Sybil Hunter

Roger Greil, aquatic research laboratory manager of Lake Superior State University (LSSU), discussed the university's aquatic research program late this past summer. The last time he addressed the MFFC membership was in 1995. Since then, the club donated \$10,000 in the late 1990's and monetarily supported two student senior thesis research projects.

"The native Atlantic Salmon population was wiped out in the late 1800's," said Greil. "Then in 1984 LSSU started the Atlantic Salmon Program." From the 1980's to the 2000's this program expanded to include grayling, rainbow trout, brook trout and other fish. "Now the best fishing site for salmon is the Great Lakes," said Greil. "We've seen up to eight percent return with Atlantic Salmon!"

The LSSU 3500 square foot hatchery is located in Sault Sainte Marie at the east end of the hydro plant, which is the sole discharge of Lake Superior. Why does LSSU run a production hatchery? "It's a hands on undergrad program. Students train in the hatchery. Students do the **entire** project start to finish. They work with the DNR, which purchase food from LSSU.

"Our students are sought after....they are all over!" said Greil. The LSSU hatchery is one of a few in the U.S. and it is run completely by undergrads. There are three to five full time students, and six to eight part time students working on the project throughout the year. They also work with the Bay Mills Indian Tribe.

Within the hatchery, there are 25,000 to 30,000 eggs hatched annually. 250 to 300 adults are housed there. "We net the last two to three days in October. We are the only source of eggs in the Great

Lakes, and we are self supportive."

"We hold on to fish for about a year and a half or so. The target (release) temperature is 46.5 degrees Fahrenheit by June first. The temperature is a key factor," said Greil. The fish are held until the conditions are right. River water is 32.2 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter, yielding zero fish growth.

"When it is time for stocking, we open the door, take a broom, and flush them out," said Greil. "There is no stress on the fish when it comes to stocking."

The process starts again in spring. "Fish start showing up (in the LSSU 50 foot by 10 foot gill net) around May and June," said Greil. "They show up all summer....and we still see some silver ones in October." In the nets, the fish are taken out, then released after the eggs are taken. They are tested for kidney disease.

When setting up the hatchery, we had to learn what the fish could tolerate. Students had to determine the best containers, how to best utilize water (gravity fed), how to address run-off issues, the proper gas densities, and more. The hatchery now runs optimally.

Testing has not always gone this smoothly. In 1991 the fish population tanked. "We were giving them antibiotics instead of actually addressing the problem," said Greil. "We saw them laying on the bottom." They found out the well water they used caused a drop in population because of at the gasses. In 1996, the well was shut down. That's when they moved to the gravity fed water system that is now effectively in use.

Another problem solved was Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS). The fish were treated with vitamin D1 and their results went up, but the bacterial syndrome

caused the lost of fish. Filters were put in, fish were released, and the mortality rate slowed. "Everything we do is with very little space."

"Patience is required for these fish," said Greil. "We were trying to fit them into *our* world, not work *with* them." With that lesson learned, the hatchery's success increased.

Based on that high level of success, land and monies were donated to hopefully expand the program and build a Center For Fresh Water Research & Education. "The governor supports it," Greil said, "We hope to have a kid's fishing pond, a visitor's center, a hatchery that can do 20% more than what we can do now, a discovery center (nature center), and research facilities."

In the meantime, the program will continue in the current facilities. Check the LSSU fish cam and their stocking site to keep in the loop. www.LSSU.edu.



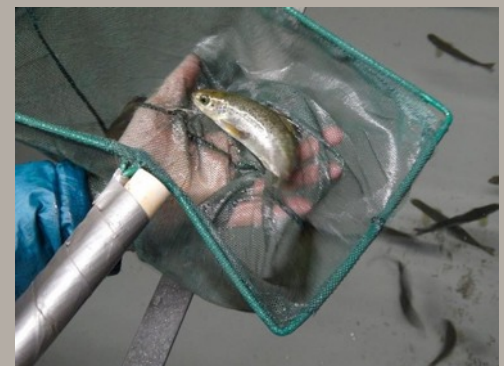
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