



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

December 2016

Pay Attention to Trout Selectivity

By Sybil Hunter

“People want to learn about why fish do what they do,” said Matt Supinski, guest speaker for December, guide, shop owner and author whose latest publication *Selectivity: The Theory & Method of Fly Fishing For Fussy Trout, Salmon & Steelhead* is now available. “I’m gonna preach my gospel of selectivity.”

Supinski points out that selectivity of trout is based on millions of years of evolution. (In the case of Brown Trout, a mere 70 million years of evolution.) “This is the strategy that helped them survive through wars, bombs.....This (fly fishing) is a thinking man’s sport,” said Supinski. When he started studying selectivity, “It was like Nicholson in *The Shining*. I was nuts. My wife thought I was nuts.”

Quite the storyteller, Supinski was born in Niagra Falls, NY, then lived in Poland as a little boy, where he fished for Atlantic Salmon in the Baltic Sea. There he attended communist school, from which he was summarily kicked out for having opinions. “I got to fish every day,” he said. Later, his family moved to Georgetown, then Michigan.

Always a proponent of learning, “I stole Carl Richard’s *Selective Trout* from the library and my German grandma grabbed me by the ear and dragged me back to the library and made me do hard time in the library on the weekends!”

Referencing *Minor Tactics of the Chalk Stream* by G.E.M. Skues, Supinski point out, “This was my grandfather by the

way...” (How could he not be addicted to learning about trout?)

“I love to see selective trout kick my butt,” said Supinski with a smile. “That is a good day.”

Trout have three phases of selectivity: aggressive/active (A/A); selective/reflective (S/R); and passive/dormant (P/D), of which a fish can pass through all three in a very short period of time. A P/D example is, “A trout is out there sipping tricos...you toss your fly out there...he’s flipping you the finger...he’s looking at your 4x tippet and wants 8x tippet..then he decides to go take a nap.”

“It’s all about selectivity,” said Supinski, who was featured for that topic on AskAboutFlyFishing.com podcasts hosted by D. Roger Maves. “Getting him (the fish) to take it is the key. This is really the mind sickness that you get into fly fishing...”

Given his knowledge base, Supinski decided to try fly fishing in the prestigious British waters. “Do you know how many books there are on entomology in England?” Supinski asked. “One. Yes. One. In Brittain, “They feed them all floating pellets. You are not supposed cast until the fish rises, then you must cast upstream.” One is supposed to leave the waters after catching their second fish. Not to be robbed of the full experience, Supinski and his cohort, managed to get their guide thoroughly pissed, seemingly slipped him a few pounds and fished on, casting downstream even. To this end, Orvis of London sent him a scathing letter citing, “You picked them so hard they will not take the fly anymore,” notifying him the fishing waters had to be shut down.

Continued Page 2

MFFC Calendar



December 14, 2016

Garage Sale Meeting

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

January 11, 2017

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Mark Hendricks

Topic: Casting Seminar

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

January 25, 2016

Activities Meeting

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

February 1, 2016

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Chris Lessway

Topic: Fishing Hatches After Hex

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

February 22, 2016

Activities Meeting

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



Keep on fishing ->

Habituation. "What trout do is habituate to you. Sit down. Relax, until the trout come to you. They habituate you," said Supinski. "We have a tendency to plow into the river. We don't pay attention to nature. Relax. Slow down. The best thing that can happen is to have bum knees, like me."

"Every fish has its own behavior. That's why wild trout is so so important. Nothing can replace the thousands of years of selectivity. He is on a constant deadline. A Brown Trout is on a mission to spawn and carry on its progeny."

"A trout is vulnerable because it eats. The first day they see a Hex, they don't know what it is. I look at these fish....they are slum lords. You'll find a Brown Trout in the muddiest, dirtiest water," Supinski points out. Then ensued his cow crossing example...ever day at 5:05 a local PA farmer walked his cattle through the river. The farmer had been doing this so religiously that every day by 4:45, fishers could watch the trout line up anticipating the feeding frenzy.

"When they were bombing in Grayling? All that nitrogen rich (stuff) ran into the rivers," fish habituated. Rainbow Trout have only three million years of selectivity. "Rainbow Trout will eat everything in sight," said Supinski. They can be highly selective - or simply dumb. So..."When in doubt, always go to an ant. An orange ant. In Montana on spring creeks, anywhere. The scientist in me when down to the water to find out why an orange ant works." It turns out an ant floating in water overnight turns orange.

Brook Trout have 30 million years of selectivity. "They are incredibly ravenous," said Supinski. "The biggest problem is that our profile is too high." This lead to sight nymphing. "Sight nymphing is so cool. Try to establish the time from when the fly hits the water until it reaches the fish's area. The first thing you want to see in sight fishing is for those pectoral fins to perk up."

We can do this because, "We have some of the most incredible water in Michigan. Why is our water quality so wonderful in

Michigan?" Supinski asked. "Sand." said Al Haxton. This creates a high alkalinity content. "Our waters tend to be alkaline. That is why they are so fertile. We have more mayflies, stone flies....then any one, bar none."

"We have sow bugs. The rivers are loaded with them," said Supinski. "We have more scuds than anyone - but nobody talks about scuds."

A brief discussion on realistic dubbing moved the conversation back to selectivity phases. "Trout spend more time in selective/reflective phase than anyone," said Supinski. "The first thing a trout sees when he comes to the surface is a refractive circle. The first thing he sees (on your fly) is your wings. Make your wings perfect."

Then in the film, the fish sees the body. Size, shape and presentation are key. Next noticed, is color. "Hue is the key. It depends on how it looks in the water," said Supinski. Then, they notice the behavior of the fly.

"Fish come and go. There is alot going on in a fish's world." For this reason, pay attention to the masking hatch. "We need to understand the whole gambit. There is stream fishing, emerger fishing, dry fly fishing, nymphing..."

Going back to aggressive/active phase, "An A/A fish is very thought out. Deception as a vehicle used to target their prey. He's a kill artist." For example, a sudden A/A situation would be a heavy hatch, sudden discoloration of the water, or a new abundant food source. Where as P/D phase is brought on by fear, stressed fish, droughts, etc.

Remember, said Supinski, "You are living in paradise right here. Pay attention. Slow down. Spend more time observing, less time casting. Slow down, slow down, slow down."



Members On The Fly

Around The State



Royal Oak High School student club members warming up after the local river clean-up.



Fly Fishing Fashionista Spencer Vanderhoof



Nymphing out west



MFFFC Business

Sage advice. Page 6. That way. Go. ->

Michigan Fly Fishing Club 2017 Events and Outings Calendar

OUTING	DATE	CHAIR	CONTACT
West Michigan Fly Show	January 14, 2017	Bill Shannon	wbshannon@sbcglobal.net
Ultimate Fishing Show	January 12-15, 2017	Jim Telinda	jtelinda@aol.com
Members School	February 11, 2017	Chris Hunter	chunter@bauerhunter.com
Outdoorama	February 23-26, 2017	Bruce Strachan	brucedcs0402@gmail.com
Midwest Fly Fishing Expo	March 11-12, 2017	Jim Telinda	jtelinda@aol.com
Spring Steelhead (tentative)	March 16-18, 2017	Michael Doyle	miketheflyguy@gmail.com
Trout Tune-Up	April 1, 2017	Scott Freeburg	sfree357@aol.com
Public School	April 8, 2017	Chris Hunter	chunter@bauerhunter.com
Boy Scout School	April 22, 2017	Bob Niemi	rniemi1@yahoo.com
Opening Weekend	April 27-30, 2017	Scott Freeburg	sfree357@aol.com
Trout Opener	April 29, 2017	Al Haxton	infoman984@sbcglobal.net
Youth School	May 6, 2017	Len Dixon	lendixon@comcast.net
Dick Shott New Members Outing	May 10-13, 2017	Steve Selinger	sselinger@twmi.rr.com
MFFC Banquet	May 17, 2017	Jim Aitken	dzrvvm@comcast.net
Smallmouth Outing	May 19-21, 2017	Todd A. Schotts	dragoneyeffyz05@yahoo.com
Club Picnic	August 19, 2017	John Erikson	johneriksson5@aol.com
Montana (1)	July 29- August 5, 2017	Al Haxton	infoman984@sbcglobal.net
Montana (2)	August 5- 12, 2017	Al Haxton	infoman984@sbcglobal.net
Montana (3)	August 12 - 19, 2017	Al Haxton	infoman984@sbcglobal.net
Ausable River CleanUp @ Gates	September 9, 2017	Al Haxton	infoman984@sbcglobal.net
Manistee River Clean Up	September 23, 2017	Al Haxton	infoman984@sbcglobal.net
Muskegon River Outing	September 21-24, 2017	Todd A. Schotts	dragoneyeffyz05@yahoo.com

revised 11/17/16



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December Fly Of The Month

A Solid Fast Water Fly

Amy's Ant

By Todd A. Schotts

For the December Fly I am bringing another famous Hopper pattern to my readership; it is legendary and very successful. In the past I have already brought to you "Dave's Hopper" and the "Pink Pookie," but this month I am bringing "Amy's Ant."

This effective pattern is brought to you by the Western fly tying and guiding legend, Jack Dennis. Jack Dennis began his career in this sport began when he was at the age of 12 years old, when he sold his first flies; then 2 years later he started his guiding career when he was asked to take someone fishing. He opened his first shop in Jackson, Wyoming when he was just 19 years old. A few years back, Jack merged his famed shop (Jack Dennis Sports); with High Country Flies in Jackson to create a new mega shop "JD High Country Outfitters." On top of owning his shop, tying flies and guiding, his books *Western Trout Fly Tying Manual*, Volumes I and II have sold over 300,000 copies, and his newest book *Tying Flies with Jack Dennis and Friends* is another best seller. To top all this off, he has also produced over 22 fly fishing videos that are some of the most entertaining and instructional videos on the market. Jack also appeared on various fly fishing shows and co-hosted the series *Fly Fish on the Outdoor Life Network*.

The fly that is "Amy's Ant" was brought to us back in the 1990's and is named after Jack's daughter. This foam fly from Jack Dennis could be considered a variation from the famed Chernobyl Ant. This resilient fly combines Elk Hair Wing, under body of sparkles with flash chenille, saddle hackle (clipped close to body), two colors of foam,

and round rubber legs. With this mixture of mishmash materials, it has become a favorite fly of many Guides, and the residents that inhabit the waters. Like any flies that have that mixture of materials, it can become a bit complicated to tie. The main issues tying this fly are usually with keeping its proportions and trying to tie all the material in on the hook without material getting in the way. To help avoid this, once you get the materials with foam tied on the hook (at the bend of the hook), hold back the foam with a piece of mono, rubber band or extra piece of lead, which will make it easier to tie in the chenille and hackle. I have found from tying this pattern, it is best to tie about a dozen of it when planning to spin those bobbins. The reason is, the first two or three flies are usually out of proportion, but after that, everything starts to fall into place. If you are wondering if you can swap out the round rubber legs with silicone legs, you can, but the silicone legs are not as long-lasting. And don't forget to try different foam color combinations like olive/green or something with red.

Amy's Ant became popular back in 1999 when Joe Bressler scored over 700 points in the famed Jackson Hole One Fly Contest, on the pro circuit. The funny catch to the whole thing, was Joe found the fly on floor of his guide vehicle. To top it off, he used the same fly the following year and landed over 100 fish with it.

When fishing this pattern, it works great alone on top, but it is big enough to be the hopper in the "hopper & dropper" fly system. When fishing this alone (without a dropper), try twitching the fly on the surface, this will usually cause huge explosions. If you are fishing inland lakes, try using this pattern, as it will have symptoms of many tight lines and great times. If you are heading out west to fish, this is a great pattern to fish the Giant Salmonfly Hatch. However you fish this mishmash-monster of a hopper, hopefully you will have plenty of tight lines. Until next month, Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.

Amy's Ant



HOOK: *Mustad 9672 size 6-12*
THREAD: *Tan 6/0*
UNDER FOAM: *Tan 2mm*
TOP FOAM: *Brown 2mm*
BODY: *Lt. brown ice chenille*
HACKLE: *Brown saddle*
UNDERWING: *Back krystal flash*
UPPER WING: *Elk body hair*
FRONT BODY: *Peacock black dazzle dubbing*
LEGS: *Black round rubber legs*

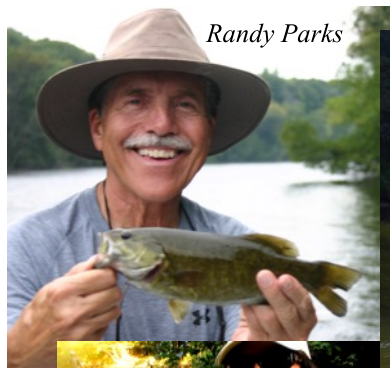




December Fishers Of The Month

MFFC

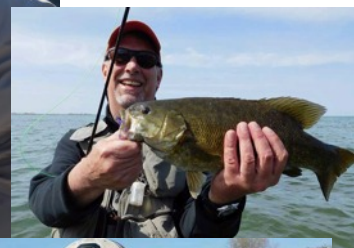
Warm Weather Flashbacks



Randy Parks



Scott Freeburg



Cody Kurzer



Renee Gall



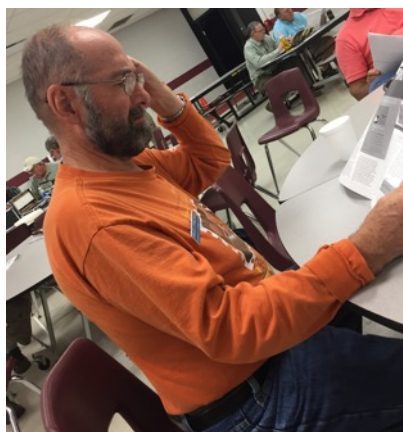
Mark Ellis

Caught

Reading
The Hatch

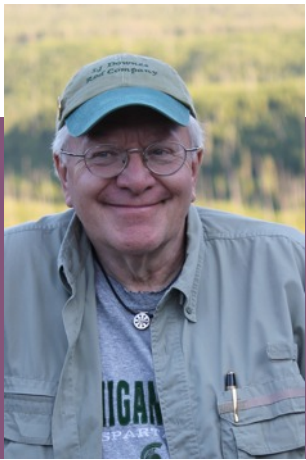
Attitude In

Detention



Kelly Summers

Merry Christmas To You An All Your Loved Ones!



Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Sage

All The Hackleman

Still Learning

Joyce and I were fishing not long ago. It was a nice warm day in early November, the sun was out, the temperature of the air on the river was mid-50s. While there were no apparent bugs hatching, it was still a wonderful day to be on the stream. The wind was blustery and I had to change flies again. I reeled in putting my fly line in my holder so I could change flies. While I stood there, a big gust of wind came along and blew the fly line around a bit. It got me to thinking of all the folks that have shared ideas, experiences and just plain good knowledge with me over the years.

My good buddy Dave Begley showed me a little trick that has saved me lots of troubles over the years. We were fishing during a windy day and changing flies had truly gotten tough for me. It just seemed like every time I needed to change flies the wind would pick up and blow my line and leader around while I tried to tie a new fly on. Dave waded over to me showing me something I had never noticed before. On his vest he had a zinger with a pair of hackle pliers, with a rubber piece on one side. He put the leader or flyline into the hackle pliers and suddenly the leader could not fly around and make things difficult. He mentioned that the piece of rubber on one side saves the flyline or leader from getting damaged by the two steel sides coming together. It was one of those moments when I hit my forehead and thought "Why didn't I think of that?" Since then I have worn a hackle plier on my vest, my pack and my lanyard. It has saved me lots of bad words.

I was fortunate to spend some time with John Long and learn a lot about casting. One day we were talking about different rods and such when John mentioned he practiced casting frequently and always practiced with his non-dominant hand too. I asked why he did that. He explained that sometimes when you are walking in the stream you find yourself on one side of the stream with fish in the other side, and trees right up next to you that

will mess with your cast. So if you can cast with your other hand, and do it reasonably well, you have many more chances to catch those fish. He showed me how he did this and since then I add a few casts with my non-dominant hand to each casting practice session. His trick has caught me some fish.

Years ago I was fishing with long time MFFC member Mike Moreau. We were fishing the North Branch and having a good day of catching. I was casting a dry fly and having fun when Mike waded close and asked me how many fish I had caught in the air. I laughed and said not many, yet. Mike commented he didn't catch many up there either and limited his back casts to one, then got the fly back on the water where the fish were. I had never really noted how much I was air casting and started a count right then. After a few casts, and finding that I was doing about six false casts for each real cast, I realized I was spending far too much time and effort with false casts. I now try to have one back cast for each forward cast. And I still have not caught any fish in the air.

One day back in 1999 Kathi Gross, Kevin Lipp and I decided to have a day of fishing on the Au Sable. We planned to drive north in the morning, fish all day then drive home that night. Lots of driving, but we were crazy fly fishers. We were going to fish all three branches of the Au Sable during our one day of fishing. We started on the North Branch, where Kathi caught about three fish for each fish Kevin and I caught. After lunch we fished the South Branch, where Kathi caught about four fish for each fish Kevin and I caught. Following dinner in Mio, we hit the Mainstream at Cummins Flats and Kathi again caught so many fish that she had folks on the bank counting her fish for her. I must admit that all day long she offered Kevin and I flies like the one she was using. She offered, we, being manly men, declined. Finally after being out fished about 300 to 40 we each accepted a fly from her and immediately started catching LOTS of fish. That fly, the F2K, is still carried by us both. I fish them frequently and always catch fish on them. The next time anyone offered me flies, I graciously accepted with a "Thank You."

About 20 years ago, Past President Peter Albertson and I were sharing fishing time on the Main Stream of the AuSable River. I noted Peter

would stop at the most difficult looking areas and spend some time casting there, casting under low hanging branches, into areas with lots of woody debris and areas I would gladly just walk past. After watching for a while I waded over and asked why he was casting to such tough areas. He thought a minute, then shared that he liked casting to tough spots so if and when he found similar spots with fish rising, he knew what to do to catch those fish. Another lesson learned by me. Since then I do the same thing. Now I do lose some flies now and then, but since I save money tying my own, its not too bad. I then have some ideas for when I do find that tough fish that I just need to catch. Another casting lesson learned.

Last summer Joyce and I fished a stretch of the South Branch that takes a long wade to access. While standing changing flies, we noted a car drove up to the bank of the river and stopped. The folks in the car looked at us, turned around and drove away. What the heck were they doing there? How in heck did they drive into this spot? We looked around on the bank and found more tire tracks. Obviously a spot that was secret no more. After some map reading and some questions to others we found the two track to our spot. Now we drive there, but we park back from the river so we don't share the drive access with others. Thanks to those folks that drove right to the bank. Silly folks, but I thank them. Sometimes we learn from folks we don't even know. But learn I did.

Now these are just some of the numerous lessons I have learned being around fellow MFFC members. They say that you can never fish the same stream twice. Of course that means that we all are different, that the stream itself is different, every time we fish. But learning new things also makes it a new stream and new experience. I have thought that one of the truly great things of our club, The Michigan Fly Fishing Club, is the fact that we have so very many learning opportunities and so many very learned members. So I challenge you. During the cold weather meetings, ask around. Talk to some members that you have not met yet. Learn some new ideas. Learn some new techniques. Maybe find a new fishing buddy. Maybe find a new secret spot for fishing. Our club has members that have fished about everywhere that fish live. Fresh water, salt water, warm water or cold. Ask around. To paraphrase on a great old song by Paul Simon,

Still learning, still learning, still learning after all these years.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

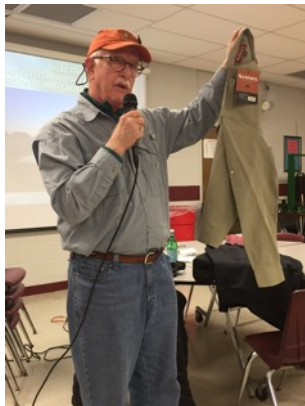
Club Events

MFFC Dry Goods

Order Your Shirts Now

Once again it is time to process the 2017 MFFC Expo shirt order. We will be ordering a sage color **Simms Guide Shirt** available in sizes: S, M, L, EX, 2XL, 3XL. They have lots of great features including: 75% poly, 25% nylon content, quick dry and wicking, UFP of 50, two front zippered and velcroed closure pockets, roll-up sleeve tabs, back vents, concealed button down collar tabs. Orders will be taken during **the two meetings in December and the first January meeting.**

The final order will be placed on January 12, 2017. Please see me, Peter Albertson, at the meeting to place your order, or if you cannot make the meetings, e-mail me at palbertsonsp@me.com to request an order and send check made out to MFFC to my address of 15736 Robinwood, Northville, 48168. Shirts cost \$45 each. **Orders/checks received after January 12, 2107 will be returned.** MFFC prefers payment at time order is placed - cash or check.



Rumor has it there are logo stitched polar fleece vests to order, as well as 60 incoming hats for sale...just give Peter the secret passcode and they are yours!

Speaker Meeting: Chris Lessway - Feb 1, 2017

Noted Special

Recognition



A special thanks to Pam Pazan, for the club trout pattern, wood burned art lazy susan for club night cookies and supplies. The item was gifted to the club in appreciate of the get well wishes club members sent to her while ill.



The raffle is in Polish...no, German...the Queen's English...whaaaat?

Members Raffle

Merry Christmas!

Thanks to the raffle table team (Todd Schotts and Linda Bocks) for bringing back the Crazy Christmas raffle! The tables were stocked and full. Our guest speaker had a great time calling the winners!



Matt Supinski



Many rods, many gifts, many tickets to purchase!