



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

December 2019

Swing Is The Thing

By Sybil Hunter

“Well let’s catch up a little,” said December’s guest speaker Ray Schmidt of Double SS Outdoors, “I owned Schmidt Outfitters, sold that about seven years ago and supposedly retired (laughter). I evidently don’t know how to do that (more laughter).” He then worked as a TFO rep, from which he retired, “Quite honestly, I am sick of driving around in the cities.” So? “We bought a place in Bear Lake, we have a pond, I built a cabin,” and then? Opened Double SS Outdoors.

The small cabin is now his physical fly shop, open by appointment, building an online presence. “We are stocking nearly everything TFO makes. Near and dear to our heart is getting people the right TFO product,” said Schmidt, “and that’s what we are up to in our TFO retirement.”

“Swing is the thing,” said Schmidt about switch rods, “Swing fishing allows you to cover a lot of water. It’s pleasant and easy. It’s for people with the same hair color,” he said modeling his grey. Swing is casting across and down. Cast two times, take a step. Two handed rods include both switch and spey models.

Schmidt showed slides of the the Nipigon River at Thunder Bay, “This is



where the Muddler Minnow was created,” said Schmidt. “The third week of August, trout migrate. We had a great guide, he taught us alot, we taught him (about switch rods). We were the only people the guide had to move the boat away from the shore to cast.”

“I cut my teeth on swing fishing on the Dean River,” said Schmidt. “The name switch comes from using the rod one handed and two handed. The aft seat is shorter and still effective. These rods are fantastic for fishing in floats. The 11 foot switch rod gives you line control you don’t have with a single handed rod. The 2/3 wt. would be 4/5 wt. fly line.

You go up two.” Use big reels and shooting line behind the fly line, at least three to three and a half inches in diameter to four and a quarter inches to
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MFFC Calendar



December 18, 2019

Activity Meeting
Clarneceville 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.

January 22, 2020

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

February 5, 2020

Speaker Meeting
Speaker: John Pinto
Topic: Saltwater Fishing
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.



Ray Schmidt - Kate Smith

DOUBLE S

- consulting
- outdoor adventure
- travel
- fly design

www.doublenessoutdoors.com



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 accommodate a Skagit fly line. You can use a Skagit head or a Scandi head — the two basic lines. Skandi is a little longer and has more finesse. Skagit is the line I prefer. It's more aggressive and easier to cast. We use Skagit line 24 feet long, typically. Skagit lines were made to fish Skagit River in the Pacific Northwest. This is the only fly line that I'm aware of that shoots 30 feet of line, then carries another 50 to 60 feet of (running) line. If it's in your hand, it's going. They are made in floating and intermediate. T14. (14 grams of weight per foot)."

"After the backing, shooting or Trilene, I prefer Big Game 40. It doesn't coil. It doesn't kink. It doesn't knot. Then finally we've got the tips (18 feet of 20 lb, the tippet, minimum 12 lb.). Leaders typically 12-20 lb test. Sink tip."

"The Big Game (line) is the cat's pajamas," said Schmidt, with 70 to 100 feet of backing behind the shooting line.

"They say 'Tug is the drug,' and that is the truth," said Schmidt. "You wait until the fish jerk it out of your hand. You don't set the hook, when they take it, they take it." (Although you need to pump the fly a few times to sell it to the fish so he will take it.)

"Some of the bugs we use are pretty simple," said Schmidt. "I have (pictures) up on the website. We chronicle the Great Lakes flies - history, who developed them, some of the characteristics. When I posted, the web lit up with (iconic) tyers... Clarence Roberts, Russ Wright, Gary Borger..." The fly blog episodes are on the website: select videos from the drop down. Classic Great Lakes Fly Patters. "The desktop fly manual is coming up (in the near future)."

Strip Leech is his favorite fly. Schmidt suggests using tubing versus wire,

particularly Spectra tubing, which adjusts and does not wear down the line. "The larger the head, the more water it pushes, the more water it pushes, the more it makes things behind it move," said Schmidt. "All of a sudden the rabbit and Flashabou go crazy."

"If the water is black, fish black." Black or copper. "Purple also works well," said Schmidt. "A color that works well in super clear water, is blue." He also suggests a Swing Bugger. "It is basically a wooly bugger with extra hackle (to make the fly move more)."

"Even the Chilean Browns will come to a swung fly," said Schmidt. "We love South America. We love Argentina. We hired a driver and a van to drive us through the Andes to fish in Chile."

"Wanda Taylor. The first female FFI certified caster," was pictured on the screen. "She has June school dates."

"The Naknek River (Alaska) is the place to go," said Schmidt. "The magic starts in the middle of September. The biggest fish we got was 33 inches."

"In saltwater fishing they (swing rods) are becoming more popular," said Schmidt. "You can blast out a 100 foot cast like nothing."

"My recommendation is if you haven't assembled this (a reel for a swing rod) before, then call me," said Schmidt. Do not overload the rod, it's easy to do. Use all loop to loop connections. "There are very few shops that have the low-down (on swing rod loading)."

"If you are even *thinking* about it, do it."

"If you are up in our neck of the woods, please stop by. Everybody who stops by loves it!" Schmidt and his wife live on a 13 acre parcel in Frog Hollow. "If you are in our neck of the woods to tie, above the fly tying bench there are 12 kinds of bourbon," said Schmidt.

Members

On The Fly



Don Oehring's 21 inch Brown.



Dave Miller in October with his Snook caught in Sarasota Bay, guided by Greg Peterson (originally a Michigan guide).



Spencer Vanderhoof caught a wood duck on film on the Shiawassee River.



MFFFC Business



Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Board Meeting November 13, 2019

Rollcall

Present: Nowicki, Strachan, Oehring, Niemi, Hunter, Selinger, Summers, Mayes, Vanderhoof
Absent: Bada
Guests: None

Approval of Minutes - Approved
Approval of Agenda - Approved

Officer's Reports

President - Nowicki

*Joe Sattler estate sale raised \$2,450. 90% of material sold.

*Discussed ideas about attracting Millennials and Gen X members. Social media, talking with vendors, holding introductory events at sites like REI and pursuing college clubs where mentioned. Events such as REI will be investigated further.

*The club was invited to support a Tie-A-Thon to be held April 18, 2020 in Elkhart, IN. We will ask about participation at the next club meeting.

Vice President - Strachan

*Strachan commented he was sending notes of acknowledgement to several club volunteers

* Discussion was held about design for a 50 year patch/pin. More details on choices will be investigated by Hunter.

Treasurer - Oehring

*Treasurer's report accepted as submitted.

*2018-2019 Audit presented. No major issues found. Audit approved.

Corresponding Secretary - Hunter

* Expo website visual mtg 12/16/19. Content mtg 12/30/19, launch 1/15/20.

* Bob Jacklin planned as 2021 banquet speaker

* Plan to rollover email to new server. Will be same mffc.org through Google Business account.

Membership - Niemi

Current: 333 active paid members

New membership roster issued in December.

Unpaid members will be removed from list in Dec.

Events & Outings

2020 Expo: Response is going normally compared to last year's results. Not enough replies to our new "non-profit" category to tell if it is making a difference. Mayes presented an early summary of the data from the entry questionnaire, from last year's Expo. Results were interesting, indications were that the expense for TV advertising was not providing much return. More detail will be available after detailed study.

New Business

Cleanup Request: Received by club to participate in an "On The Water" cleanup of the Muskegon River. Nowicki will obtain more details for discussion.

Metro Park Fly Fishing Classes: Board agreed we should participate in this program. Need volunteers.

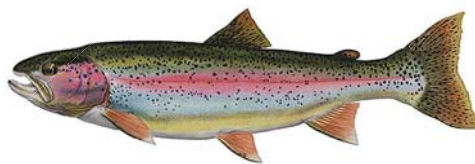
Great Lakes Chapter of FFI Fly Fishing Show: Nowicki will bring up the December 7th show date at the next general meeting to see if there is interest in a club booth.

Old Business

2020 Youth School has decided to stay with the early May date. The normal participants will cover for Dixon, the organizer, who cannot attend.

Visitor Comments: none

Adjournment: 9:38 PM



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:

Dave Nowicki
president@mffc.org

Vice President:

Bruce Strachan
brucedcs0402@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary:

Sybil Hunter
correspondence@mffc.org

Recording Secretary:

Steve Selinger
aquilasailboat@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Kathy Oehring
treasurer@mffc.org

Membership:

Bob Niemi
membership@mffc.org

Immediate Past President:

Spencer Vanderhoof
info@mffc.org

At-Large Directors:

David Mayes
dpm8906@yahoo.com

Jon Bada

jonbada@hotmail.com

Craig Summers

cksum61@gmail.com

Hatch Editor:

Sybil Hunter
evening.hatch.mffc@gmail.com

Webmaster:

Harry Briggs
habriggs@gmail.com



December Fly Of The Month

The Flashback

Purple Haze

By Christopher C Hunter

(The flashback, comeback...dude)

In the spirit of the season, and with the spirits inside me, I would like to honor and thank Todd Schotts for all of his submissions to the Hatch. As Todd has been unable to write a column this month (we hope you feel better soon), I figured I would step into his very large shoes (have you seen his shoes???) and take a crack (mostly because of a bad back-cast) at doing my best to provide a Schotts worthy piece (and not a piece of...anyways...)

For this month's pattern, I am going to simply beg, borrow, cheat and steal from the best. There is absolutely nothing unique about this pattern, apart from the fact it is purple. And it catches fish – lots of fish. There are probably more variations of this pattern than any other pattern apart from a wooly bugger. Of course I'm talking about the Purple Haze. (And spoiler alert, the Purple Haze is nothing more than an Adams pattern – tied with (you guessed it) Purple!!!)

There are a lot of arguments about who originated the Purple Haze. I sure it's pretty much the same argument people have about who created the original Adams pattern (or any other pattern). According to Orvis, Andy Carlson, the owner and operator of Bitterroot Anglers

in Hamilton, Montana, originated the Purple Haze. "Andy came up with the Purple Haze in 2000 and it caught on like wildfire, particularly in the West." (<https://howtoflyfish.orvis.com/fly-tying-videos/dry-flies/712-purple-haze>)

The story I heard (and it must be true because I was not old enough to drink when I heard it, and was not drinking at the time I heard it) is that Wes McKay, a young and upcoming guide on the Bitterroot, was tying with his friend, who just happened to be Steve Abel's son (yes, *that Steve Abel*, as in Abel Reels) and came up with the variation. Wes grew up fishing the Bitterroot, and at 18 or 19 started guiding on the Bitterroot. As I remember the story (a phrase which gives me complete immunity from prosecution), the two of them were tying traditional Adams' patterns to stock up for paying customers and simply got bored. One thing leads to another, which led to, of course, Purple.

Then, with tongue in cheek Wes decided he had tied the stupid looking things; he might as well try them. And presto – the Purple Haze was born. I met Wes on a trip to fish the Bitterroot in Montana with my father, brother and a friend of my father's Fred Hall that started on September 13, 2004.

Ironically, thanks to Sybil's gift of a fishing journal, this is also when I started chronicling my fly-fishing adventures. The following are my edited (highlights) notes from the trip – written proof regarding the origin and success of the Purple Haze.

Purple Haze



- September 13, 2004. West Fork of Bitterroot River. Blew out both boots and ran out of duct tape. I caught and landed a fish before the boats were even on the river – the sign of a great trip.
- September 14. Best day yet. 10 "doubles" and 20 fish from one hole. So good we gave a rod to Wes to fish with us. Wes is in excellent guide. Young and knowledgeable. Lots of cutthroat 16-18" and one 20" whitefish. *Purple Haze size 14.*
- September 16. Few trout, tons of whitefish. *John caught no trout* (direct quote from my notes), only whitefish. End of day. 1 fly 1 trout. *Crippled Purple Haze tied by Wes McKay.*
- September 17. Rained all day. Lots of large fish. Double dry *Purple Haze* and Ant.

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December Nonsense

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Okay, while my notes may not support the origin of the Purple Haze, they certainly attest to its effectiveness. There are many variations now of the Purple Haze, but over the years, there have been some worthwhile notes on tying the variations. Here are the best tips I have found:

- Start by tying in your purple thread at the hook shank just behind the eye, leaving some space behind the eye and lay down a base of thread to tie on. (i.e. Don't crowd the hook eye until the end of the fly.)
- Use about 8 hairs of speckled moose body for the tail. (Make sure you remove any wispy under-fur from the butts and stack the hair before tying in because no one wants wispy butt hair.)
- The tail should be approximately a hook length. You can use the long tail material to create the shape of the body, which is a great cheat and time saver.
- As you tie down the tail, lift the butt to keep the tail material on top of the fly. (Comment withheld – use your imagination.)
- Use a post instead of upright wings – the wings look cool, but take a lot longer to tie and are not as durable (unless you like fishing with “cripples”).
- Place the wing post at about the 60% point on the hook shank, as opposed to the standard 75%, to better balance the fly on the water.
- Wrap the hackles counterclockwise, first up the post, then back down before holding the tips in place and tying them off.
- Flexi-floss can be used for the body instead of thread, but is not as durable.
- A foam post can be used in place of calf tail
- EP Sparkle Pearl Magic (Enrico Puglisi) can be used in place of calf tail or foam
- Brown, grizzly and purple!! hackles can be used on the Purple Haze, just like on an Adams. The better the hackle you use, the happier you'll be with the results. The hackles should be slightly undersized for the hook. (Try not to trap any hackle fibers while winding the thread back down the post through the hackle – this is me not laughing... you know what I mean.)

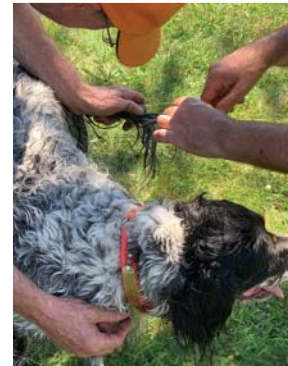
And most of all, have fun.



More Haze-ing



The Annual MFFC Picnic



Catch and Release of the infamous Dogfish.



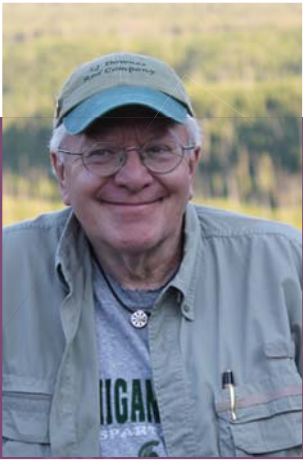
3 Wise Guys



2nd & 3rd Place Winners

Chris Hunter & Bruce Strachan





Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Mastermind

Al The Hackleman

Time To Volunteer

One of the best parts of winter is all the shows that are around. I fondly remember sharing fly fishing stories and fly tying fun at so many shows in the past. I think that is one of the best kept secrets of our club. Those of us that worked at the different shows each winter sort of kept it to ourselves. After all, where else could you go and tie some flies with excited kids and also share stories of the last fishing season with so many other fishers. I can remember even trying to convert some folks that fished with 'tools of the devil' to come over to the light side and use flies and join our club. Those were fun conversations because we all used to fish with 'tools of the devil.'

So let us consider the upcoming shows and all the shared enjoyment we can have.

In January we start out with The Ultimate Fishing Show. Now even the name tells it all. FISHING. What more can anyone need? I always enjoyed this show because all the folks there are into chasing fish. And sometimes, if you chat with folks nicely and share some information, they can share some of their favorite spots to fish. Nothing like getting some secret information for the next season. That show is from January 10 to 13, 2020. Tracey Partridge is coordinating our volunteers and I feel sure she would like more folks to sign up. If nothing else it gives us an excuse to get out during the cold days and share some smiles and stories with others. I truly believe that getting out and talking with other MFFC members at shows like this is really a great bonus for us all. After all, each of us fishes a bit differently and probably enjoys different patterns of flies. Add to that the opportunity to maybe get some young person hooked on our sport, well that alone

makes the time spent worthwhile.

I can remember chatting with another club member many years ago about the type of flies I was using and being told that maybe I should try some wet flies, just to increase the fun. The comment was made that they take a bit of learning and they are fished differently from dry flies. So I considered it. We spoke again at a couple of meetings during the year and I finally decided to really give wet flies a try. I fished nothing but wet flies for an entire season. No dry flies at all. And guess what happened, I caught fish on them. That conversation years ago opened my eyes to new opportunities to fish. I think that alone made that show one of my favorites of all time. So talk with Tracey at a meeting, or contact her from her email listed in the club roster, and get over to that show and find some new techniques and places to fish.

Later in the winter we also have the fun of doing some good stuff at Outdoorama. That show is from February 28 to March 3, 2020. I volunteered for Outdoorama a number of times and always came away impressed and feeling pretty good about what our club does at that big show. I can remember LOTS of people and lots of times to share fly fishing stories and fun. Past President Spencer Vanderhoof is coordinating the folks for this show, and again, there are always lots of openings in the schedule. So contact Spence, he too is listed in our club roster, and enjoy that show too. I should mention that one of the benefits of doing some time at any show is the chance to walk around and look at all the stuff there for sporting folks. So many booths and items for our use. I found the walking around part sort of mind opening in many ways. Lots of lodges for hunting and fishing. Many spots from other states and even other countries. So many pictures of smiling folks enjoying the great outdoors. It made me want to travel a bit more than normal. This show had a lot more of that kind of thing than the other show, and that is another of the fun things of going to both. Compare and enhance your thoughts about where to visit. I can remember always coming home with so many pamphlets

about places to visit. Good reading and dreaming about places to go. Again, contact Spence and sign up and enjoy the experience.

One other item to consider. There is a group that asks folks to tie some flies and donate them. Joyce has done this for years now. She has done quite a few different patterns in different sizes and I must say she really enjoys the satisfaction of getting them finished and sent in to the coordinator. The Tie-A-Thon is a nice way to sort of focus ideas and thoughts on doing good for someone else. Of course like all fly tying, learning a new pattern always takes a while. The first dozen flies might not be up to snuff, but that is the learning process. The first ones don't get sent out, they get put in our own fly boxes and used during our fishing times each season. Getting the thread wraps correct, the dubbed bodies the same and the hackles all the same is a challenge, but a good one. And after getting her 100 flies done she always ties some good ones for us too. I noticed she makes some notes while the new pattern is getting learned, and those notes help when she ties other patterns too. If this interests you this winter ask around at a meeting. I am sure someone will know about that group and believe me when I say this, YOU WILL BE PROUD AND THANKFUL WHEN THE FLIES ARE DONATED.

One other show I should mention. It's only a few months until our show, The Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, happens again. Some cool history of our show is that it is the longest running fly fishing only show in the entire country. Think about that for a minute. WE OWN THE LONGEST RUNNING FLY FISHING SHOW. How cool is that. And this next show, March 14 and 15, 2020, will be our 43rd show. Not long and it will be 50 years of our show. I think we will need gold shirts for that show. And gold pins. And maybe gold hooks for our flies. So get your name on that sign up sheet to, because that is the best weekend of the year.

Just one other comment to consider. Next year, all of us that wear glasses will see 20/20 again. Now that's a good thing.

Merry Christmas to all and Happy New Year.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events



Jerry Deputat

The Library Calls

Do you have a fly fishing trip planned?

Whether your destination is Colorado, Wyoming, Alaska, the Smokey Mountains, or Northern Michigan, just to name a few,.....check out these and other destinations in the **Joe Sattler Memorial Library**. You'll find tips (in books and DVDs) on where to fish, and even how to tie those fly patterns that have been proven successful for your destination. Just a reminder that "destination" books are all coded with a blue sticker, while "fly tying" books are coded red. While visiting the library, pick up a license plate holder, club patch, decals, or pin to show off your membership to one of the most prestigious fly fishing clubs in the country!! All still at the remarkable price of only.....you guessed it.....five bucks.

Due to an abundance of donated books, the Library will soon be offering a bin of "bargain books", comprised of slow moving or duplicate books in our collection. We are hoping to change the selection for every meeting, so stop by and check it out. Proceeds will be applied to our club's conservation efforts.

And don't forget to peruse the ROD Book.....a collection of flyfishing products being sold BY club members FOR club members.

Come Join The Fun!

Member's School

2020 Member School

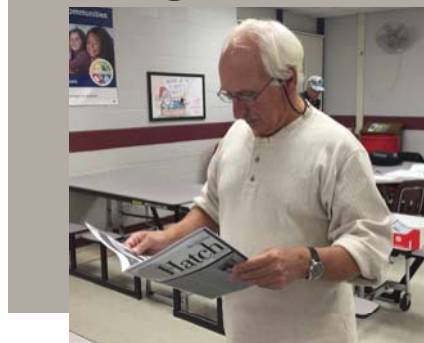
Students & Volunteers Wanted

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

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.

Reading The Hatch

Caught!



Come Help Share The Sport!

Ultimate Fishing Show

The MFFC has a yearly presence at the Ultimate Fishing Show every year. It is coming January 9-12, 2020! Not only does this even promote the Club but it introduces the next generation of fishers to the art of fly tying (education is part of our non-profit requirements), and the parent company receives requests for our presence there!

Volunteers only need sign up for an hour or two, of casting and/or tying.

Volunteer hours are as follows:

- Thursday, January 9: 1pm - 9pm
- Friday, January 10: 11am - 9pm
- Saturday, January 11: 10am - 8pm
- Sunday, January 12: 10am - 5pm

Save your receipts, parking passes will be reimbursed by the MFFC treasurer, after conclusion of the show.

Ray Schmidt's Swing Rod Flies





Michigan Fly Fishing Club
PO BOX 530861
Livonia, MI 48153