



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Dec 2018 - Jan 2019

Fishing The Four Seasons

By Sybil Hunter

“Many, many years ago, I decided I was gonna be that uncle that smells of scotch and lives up north and at the family reunion, nobody talks to,” started out Brian Pitser, MFFC’s December guest speaker and owner of Northern Angler Fly Shop in Traverse City, Michigan. “I go to the church on the river. I’ve made my passion my livelihood. There are a lot of new people up there that want to get into fly fishing,” so Pitser teaches them. “There’s so much to offer in a 40-45 minute drive from Traverse City.”

“Fall is my favorite. Late August, Kings start coming to the river,” said Pitser. “There were plenty of fish in the river. Early season Kings, these are very tough to land. Fish mainly the Betsie this time of year.” You have to “get out there at the crack of chickens” to catch early season Kings. “The King time is nice... the only problem with the King time is crowds.” During this time, “They [the Kings] get a little bit bigger and a little bit darker. We like to get kids and families out as much as possible,” during the fall. “You don’t have to be a professional to have fun.”

“This year we had an incredible Coho



run,” said Pitser. “The Coho will forage a lot better than the Kings.”

“Another bonus of fall is the Trout... over on the Upper Manistee. They kinda get their spawn on in September.” The egg bite starts in October. “It’s the two handed rod time of year... spey and swing rod time of year,” said Pitser. “One of my favorite things to do is to fish the swing... it is the most rewarding.”

“Each year is different,” said Pitser. “This year I was really working hard for four to six fish a day. Four years ago we had a light year. The fish just trickled in, but they were big. Last year was gang busters, we all got double digit fish.”

Each year is different alright. One year, Lilly, Pitser’s 15 year old daughter

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MFFC Calendar



February 6, 2019

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Ron Barch

Topic: Split Bamboo Fly Rods
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

February 20, 2019

Activities Meeting

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

March 6, 2019

Activities Meeting

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

March 9 & 10, 2019

Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

March 20, 2019

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Dennis Potter

Topic: Tying Demonstration
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.



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who works at the shop, suddenly wanted to go fishing. "Out of the blue," said Pitser. How could he not agree? He had been waiting for this day for ages! Once out on the boat, she hooked a fish and lost it. "I went into pure guide mode," he said, "and she yells at me, 'Don't tell me what to do Dad!'"

Then comes winter. "Winter is any time that the water drops below 40 degrees," said Pitser. A beautiful serene winter white wonderland showed on the screen. "It's nice, but it's not busy." The picture changed to a fish in an icy cold world, "It really is as bad as it looks," he said. "Winter Steelhead fishing is real fun...where you can get out and wade."

"We fish alot. That's what we do. That's why we work in a fly shop and don't make alot of money."

Then March 15 through May 1, the Steelhead fishing is good below Tippy Dam. Spring means higher water and bright eggs. "The darker and deeper the water, the bigger the eggs," said Pitser.

They set up, they spawn, and they maybe come in three to four days total.

We get alot of these bright chrome fish. They move in and move out quickly."

"Mid April into May, when stream fishing for Browns, the water's up and dark. You don't see alot of shinier fish... it's not an easy job." Pitser throws double rig streamers because the fish says, "Holy crap! I'm scared! Oh look! There's something I can eat....the dessert is the follow-up!"

"One of our favorite things to do is to take kids fishing. If you're interested in a really, really fun time that may or may not involve catching fish, go carp fishing. You get the the bonus fish - Smallmouth."

"The hatches were really good this year. We had to work for them. The fish were really, really smart." Joyce Haxton's smiling face with an "average" sized Trout popped up next. "Our average Trout is six to ten inches," said Pitser.

Then..."That's when we get into the night time fishing. Next ants, bugs, hoppers...It's a great time to get out. The number of anglers has increased. It's that time of year we start to fish for Bass too."

Keeping it real, the next slide was Brian and his girlfriend in the guide boat with fish. "This is our typical date night," said Pitser. "Again, I just love Brook Trout!"

"Get the kids into it! Keep it fun for them," said Pitser. "My favorite part of being a guide is teaching...teach someone young, teach someone old...share my knowledge..that's why I do it."

The Northern Angler

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Master Angler

On The Fly

Salmon - Chinook (King) 39' & 25 lbs.
 Salmon - Coho - 32.125 inches
 Steelhead Trout - 32 inches
 Don Oehring caught all three during fall 2018 on the Manistee with Chuck Scribner (see thumb).





MFFFC Business



Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board Meeting December 12, 2018 at 7:30 pm

Rollcall

Present: Vanderhoof; Strachan; Nowicki; Bada; Hunter; Selinger; Summers; Oehring; Niemi; Freeburg
Absent: Briggs
Guests: None

Approval of Minutes - Approved
Approval of Agenda - Approved

Officer Reports

President - Vanderhoof

Dennis Brukwinski is now the raffle chair.

Vice President - Strachan

Italy trip was great.

Treasurer - Nowicki

Treasurer's report accepted.

Going forward, per group vote, monthly treasurer reports will be accompanied with last year's equivalent monthly report starting in January.

Tax prep is complete.

Corresponding Secretary - Hunter

Speaker schedule in good shape.

Scott brought up IF4 movie possibility, more discussion next month after input from Costic Center room availability.

Hatch - Hunter

No issues.

Website - Briggs

No update.

Membership - Bada

Current 362 active members, this is slightly below last year at this time.

Events & Outings

Revised Membership Flyer discussion. Vanderhoof offered to find old flyers in storage to review and revise.

Expo: Space commitments are slowly coming in.

New Business

Life Memberships were asked about; the Club does not have life memberships.

Kid's Raffle at fly fishing shows was addressed. The idea was supported by board members, discussion at later meetings.

Old Business

Peter Albertson's Report was handed out to board members. Discussion will continue next meeting.

Audit is complete for this year.

Library Cart decision is still waiting for info from the school on storage space availability.

Visitor Comments: None

Roundtable

Visitor Comments: see above

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:56

Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board Meeting November 14, 2018 at 7:30 pm

Rollcall

Present: Vanderhoof; Nowicki; Hunter; Selinger; Summers; Oehring; Niemi; Freeburg
Absent: Strachan; Bada; Briggs
Guests: L. Bocks; Albertson; Matuszewski

Approval of Minutes - Approved
Approval of Agenda - Approved with addition

Officer Reports

President - Vanderhoof

Joyce Haxton is now a board member of Anglers of the Au Sable.

Vice President - Strachan

Not present.

Treasurer - Nowicki

Treasurer's report accepted

Matuszewski reported on Financial Review. Six observations and recommendations were made. Nothing major. Discussion regarding future and purpose of review.

Corresponding Secretary - Hunter

Kelly Neuman will be Jan. 9 speaker. Topic: Salmon fishing.

Hatch - Hunter

On schedule.

Website - Briggs

No report.

Membership - Bada

358 active members.

Events & Outings

Expo Postcards were discussed by Linda Bocks. We need to order for use at Ourdoorama and Ultimate Fishing Show. Board agreed upon preliminary order of 250.

Expo Update: Summers reported no major issues. Space reservations are being received. The process is running later than last year's time schedule. Question of presence of liability waiver language in the contract. Summers said he would check.

New Business

Conservation Corner proposal resented by Peter Albertson. There was agreement that this was a good idea if the activity was to be used to inform members of pertinent issues, where to go for info, and how to voice those opinions. There was agreement that the activity should not be used to have the club take an advocacy position. Peter will put together a more detailed proposal for the next meeting.

Library Cart proposal was discussed. It was agreed that if space could be found within the school for storage, the purchase should proceed.

Old Business: none

Visitor Comments: see above

Roundtable

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:34 pm



2018 - 2019 Officers

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Seeking Atlantic Salmon In MI



By Sybil Hunter

“When Chinooks collapsed in Lake Huron, the Walleyes boomed,” said Kelly Neuman, owner of Streamside Custom Rod & Guide Service in Fairview, Michigan. “Lake Huron is going under a lot of changes...then someone got the idea to plant Atlantic Salmon in the lake. In 2014 they stocked them (stocking photo). In 2015 they stocked them a little differently (different process of stocking photo). Then in 2016 this happened (big Salmon picture).”

Predation is one of the biggest problems. Into 2017 and 2018, the fish have just continued to increase in size, said Neuman. “The DNR is doing the job of tracking all the salmon.” Stocked salmon have a wire tag in their nose indicating its stocking site. “Large numbers were planted, a few came back.” Then things built up over time. “The DNR has done a lot of work.”

“In Lake Huron, species that feed on Gobies do well. The Atlantic Salmon are very aggressive. They act like Brown Trout,” said Neuman. “They will even follow a streamer right up to the boat.”

In the absence of the Alewife, there are more predators. These birds are about the worst you can find,” said Neuman

showing a photo of Cormorants filling an a large empty tree. “With large amounts of Cormorants, you can’t have any kind of fishery.” They hawk the fish stocking sites for easy fishing, but are currently protected.

On the Au Sable, the Atlantic Salmon will hang out in shallow water...they’re not spooky. Use Goby type patterns, streamers with some flash,” said Neuman. “The Atlantic Salmon do like action on the fly when you strip it.”

“Something unique to the Atlantic Salmon, when they spawn, they won’t die,” said Neuman. Some even choose to winter over in the Au Sable. “Bright and flashy is what gets them.”

“The nice thing about the Au Sable, it’s not crowded like the western rivers.”

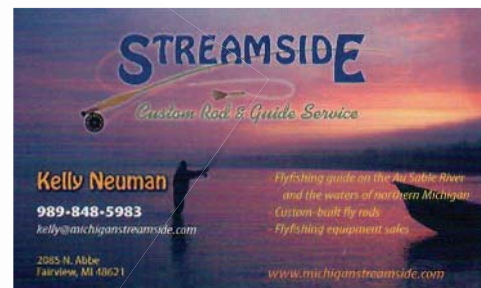
“The nice thing about the Atlantics is there are Steelhead in the river.”

“One of the things about these fish [Atlantic Salmon], you can see them in the river...some of them will just charge” to get a fly. “Some of the Atlantics will just sit there. They are not afraid of the boat.”

Winter rivers find Steelhead in the bottom of runs, and Atlantics hanging around the edges. “Fish streamers with lots of action, banging these things around, the Atlantics will really bite them hard.”

Most of the fish that come in in December, they come in, they spawn, they leave. They are basically being caught on their way back to Lake Huron. “It’s been more of a larger class of fish in the winter,” said Neuman “Then in late March, early April, those fish are *eating*.” Spring finds them bright silver and weighing around six to eight pounds. “They get slender in the winter, but they put on weight later in the year.”

What’s after that? The Arkansas Lodge where a suspiciously rowdy group of MFFC members holed up last February, and plan to take over again this February!



Caught

Reading The Hatch





Anglers Of The Au Sable Settle Fish Hatchery Lawsuit

By Vince Curaso

On Tuesday evening November 13th, a group of MFFC members gathered at Lockhart's BBQ in downtown Royal Oak at an event sponsored by the local Trout Unlimited Challenge Chapter. The event featured Joe Hemming, president of the Anglers of the AuSable, as the guest speaker. Joe gave an update on how the Anglers reached a settlement on the lawsuit over the Grayling Fish Hatchery.

Starting January 1, 2019 the lease held by Harrietta Hills Trout Farm LLC, will be transferred to the Anglers of the Au Sable Association. The transfer is the result of a binding mediation agreement between the Anglers of the AuSable, Harrietta Hills Trout Farm, and Crawford County. Anglers of the Au Sable agreed to assume all Harrietta Hills Trout Farm interest and obligations as a tenant of the lease. They will also pay Harrietta Hills Trout Farm \$160,000 to stop all operations at the hatchery.

The Anglers of the Au Sable plan on making the Grayling Fish Hatchery an educational facility for the use of the public and the county. They plan to stock Brook, Brown, and Rainbow Trout in the raceways with the possibility of bringing in the Artic Grayling species, which has been extinct since the late 1880's. Also, they plan to clear a sand trap above the hatchery, filling the area in with fish cover, and create an area on the grounds

to educate area youth on the techniques of fly-fishing.

A fish hatchery manager will be hired for the daily operation of the facility. In addition, the Anglers of the Au Sable plan on consulting with the faculty and students from Lake Superior State and Michigan State University for input on the operations of the facility. Funding for the operations of the hatchery will be from gate admissions and private donations. Donations can be made at: gifts.tu.org/ausable-river.

Future projects will also include the possibility of installing a fish passage between the main river and the upper East Branch which is currently blocked by the fish hatchery. This would allow trout to migrate to cool water refuge, spawn, and to diversify the gene pool. Another possibility for the future is converting an old building on the property into a museum. The building will be inspected and analyzed to ascertain feasibility.

All in all it's a win-win situation for everyone in the fishing industry and for property owners along the Au Sable River knowing that the river will not be endangered by the possibility of pollution from a commercial fish farm. So if you're in the Grayling area next summer, bring the kids or grand kids to the historical Grayling Fish Hatchery and support the Anglers of the Au Sable as they take on this new adventure to protect and preserve the Au Sable River.



The Hunter Boys

On The Fly



Cuyhaique, Chile



Kiosco & Cabanas Sueno Patagon



December Fly Of The Month

From Lefty Kreh

Lefty's Deceiver

By Todd A. Schotts

At the end of 2018, I was trying to figure out the pattern to finish this year up with... after searching, it finally dawned on me when I just finished up an order of flies - the answer was right in front of me. With members heading south to fish the warm ocean waters and even the streamer guru's that go to the White River in Arkansas, this fly is for you! The fly I am talking about is by Lefty Kreh and is the one and only "Lefty's Deceiver."

The creator of this fly, Bernard "Lefty" Kreh, was a photographer, writer, fly tier, casting instructor, and guide in his early years. Lefty is known for being one of the pioneers of saltwater fly fishing; his legacy to the world of fly fishing is just totally amazing. We were lucky enough a few years back to have Lefty at the Midwest Expo, and if you ever got to meet him, he was truly a gentleman of the fly fishing and tying world. Unfortunately he passed away this past March, but he left us with so much information in the world of fly fishing, plus a fly pattern that is considered to be one of the most famous flies there is: Lefty's Deceiver.

The deceiver was created back in the 1950's out of necessity for fishing the stripers that occupied Chesapeake Bay. Lefty was fishing with Tom Cofield, Outdoor editor for Baltimore News & Post. Most of the flies back then, would frequently get tangled or wrapped around the hook, messing up the retrieve. Per Lefty, he wanted a fly pattern that wouldn't get fouled up, and also

resembled a smelt. Well, the rest is history in the making.

In a quote from Lefty, "I said to Tom, I'm going to design a fly that won't foul on the cast! It will have a fish shape, but can be made in many lengths. You can vary the color combinations; it will also swim well but when lifted for the back cast it will be sleek and have little air-resistance." At the time, he just hoped it would work, but didn't consider it might become a part of fly-fishing history. With Lefty's Deceiver it is a type of a fly design, not really a specific pattern. It can be an inch long or 14 inches long and in many different color combinations to represent bait fish, crabs, or shrimp.

The original deceiver was tied with a wing of four or eight saddle hackles tied in at the bend of the hook, with buck tail or calf tail collar at the front of the hook. With the saddle hackles, one trick I actually saw Lefty do when tying them in, instead of one at a time and matching them up perfectly, he had 4 to 8 hackles in a bundle, trimmed off the hide, and tied them in all at once. If the saddle hackles end up going one way or the other, just run the fly under hot water, smooth the feathers, and let it dry. The first-original deceiver was tied in all white, and to this day, is still a very productive color.

Lefty mentioned he believed that eyes on a Lefty Deceiver out produced Lefty Deceiver's without eyes. When tying this pattern, with less buck tail for the collar, the fly will sink down deeper, where as if you wanted to fish near the surface, more buck tail will help to keep the fly suspended. If the collar of buck tail flares out when tied in - it is no problem. It just adds more resistance in the water when the fly is stripped back in.

The one major detail is in the lengths of the feathers, flash, and deer hair/calf tail: lengths of the feathers out the back are 2 1/2 to 3 times the hook shank length and tied in at the bend of the hook and when tying in the



Lefty's Deceiver

HOOK: Sizes 8 to 3/0 streamer hooks

THREAD: 6/0 or 140 Denier

TAILS: White saddle hackle, 4 to 8 hackles

BODY: Flat braid pearl or a colored flat braid

COLLAR: buck tail/calf tail

FLASH: Pearl Krystal Flash

EYES: Stick on red eyes

OPTIONAL: Lead eyes, weight, skull heads, red throat

flash you want to be a little longer than the feathers, and the deer hair/calf tail, you want to be about 1 1/2 hook-shank lengths, but not as long as the hackle. With these lengths, you will have the appearance that this fly was originally intended for. With today's fly tying materials, there are so many different variations of Lefty's Deceiver, with lead eyes, skull heads, or even articulation.

One thing about this amazing pattern is it is globally used, and along with the Clouser Minnow, they are the two most copied saltwater fly patterns. As Lefty said in an article, "It doesn't bother me that this pattern is copied, as long as they are enjoying using the pattern and are successful with it". In 1991 the U.S. Postal Service honored Lefty's Deceiver by having it on a postal stamp.

Hopefully you were good this year, and Santa brought you the materials for this pattern, so you can start slinging bobbins for your saltwater adventures, stocking up for 2019 fishing. Until next month, Tight Lines, Snazzy Flies.



January Fly Of The Month

For Salt & Freshwater

Blue Mist

By Todd A. Schotts

To start the New Year out, I decided to stay in the arena of Saltwater flies, but one thing unique about this next fly, is that it can be used for warm water predator fish with much success as well. This month's fly is called the Blue Mist and is designed by Alan Youell.

For the fishing report on Alan Youell, he resides in Calgary, Alberta. Just like most of us, he has been an avid angler since his childhood. The fly fishing aspect of his life includes working in fly shops, being a guide, and commercial tier. Besides all the above information, he opened a company that provides fly fishing travel services with his spouse, "On The Water Fly Fishing Travel."

I am not really sure when the Blue Mist was designed, but it is a very easy pattern to tie that is a streamer that matches the schooling sardines that baby tarpon enjoy feasting on. But just not tarpon, this fly has fooled a lot of different species in the saltwater as well as predators of the warm water arena. Alan mentions that this pattern has fooled tarpon in Roatan, Jacks in Cuba, Ladyfish in Mexico, Trevally in Hawaii, Snook in Belize, and has worked for Northern Pike just to name a few of its successes.

When tying the pattern, attach the eyes back two hook eye lengths from the front. Make sure they are secured down with thread, but also add some permanent adhesive to firmly secure the eyes. Do note, since these are light weight eyes, this fly will be riding hook point down. One

other important step is adding a piece of 20 lb. mono (2 3/8" long) at the bend of the hook, on top of the hook shank. Then make a loop with the mono and tie back in on the hook shank. You should have a loop (about hook gap) coming from the bend of the hook, out of the back of the fly. This will help to keep your tail material from foul hooking your fly.

The zonker material will extend off the back of the hook, and is about 1 1/2 hook shanks long, secure it in at the bend of the hook only. Do not trim the excess heading to the front the fly, as you will need that after the polar chenille. With the polar chenille, tie this in at the bend of the hook. Make sure your wraps are touching when wrapping forward, to right behind the eyes. One thing that is tricky with Polar Chenille is not to trap the fibers in as you palmer it. Now pull the short piece of rabbit zonker over the polar chenille and tie it down behind the eyes. With the body fur, tie it in behind the eyes and palmer wrap it three times to form a collar. Using UV thin coat glue, cover up the thread wraps to make sure they are secured, and zap them with the UV Light. When putting the eyes in the sunken eye sockets, it is best to use gel permanent glue. This will just help in not dropping or fumbling your eyes, and gives you time to adjust the eyes.

Remember when fishing this fly, it is tied using light weight aluminum eyes, so this fly will sink slowly, which will be suspended in front of the fish. From what I read in Alan's notes, it is relatively easy to cast, moves water nicely, and is excellent in off-colored water.

So if you're slinging your bobbins with this fly for the waters of the salt, or slinging for those toothy prehistoric creatures known as Pike, may your flies result in many tight lines. Until next month, Tight Lines, and Snazzy Flies.



Blue Mist



HOOK: Gamakatsu SL12S-Size 2/0
THREAD: 6/0 or 140 Denier Doc Blue
EYES: Sea Eyes, Large – Blue
FOUL GUARD: 20lb Stiff Mono
WING/TAIL: Magnum Tiger Barred Strip – Blue/Black over White
BODY: Polar Chenille – Clear
COLLAR: Long Body Fur Blue
EYES: Fish Skull Living Eyes, 6.0mm Stick on - Ice



Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Shifu

Al The Hackleman

Time To Think Back And Plan For The Future

Each year about this time, I spend some time thinking back on all the 'improvements' I have made to my fly fishing experiences. This always brings me to thinking about the many fine folks that have shared the sport with me along with their knowledge and expertise. Let's give some thought to the past, and maybe find some ways to plan the future too.

One person I always think about is Past President Tony Yuhas. Tony was President of our club back in the late 1990's. He loved the sport of fly fishing and truly enjoyed the shared laughter and relaxation of spending time with other club members. Tony loved to tie his own flies, and he had some patterns that were sort of his 'adjustment' of some standard patterns that we all have used and enjoyed. It seemed Tony was always sort of tinkering with patterns. Sometimes his ideas made the fly easier to tie.

Sometimes he changed materials to make it more of his own fly. And often he made changes to fly patterns to make them float higher or longer. Tony carried a huge bag of fly boxes and when he arrived at the river he would open that bag, and many of those boxes, and select flies that looked like they would work that day on that stretch of the river. While he browsed the boxes of flies he would sit quietly near the river and watch what was happening. After fishing with Tony a

few times I learned that trait, sit quietly and watch the river. There is no rush. Relax and enjoy the sight of the river, imagine the fish that live there, look for the bugs they are eating, look at the rises and the splashes. Think about what to use and how to present it. Look at the water and the way it moves and flows. I still try to follow his lead each time I fish. Try it, you may like it.

Another person I think of is Ron Angove. Ron was very instrumental in teaching me so much about tying my own flies. He taught me almost everything about tying flies and I can remember some of his comments about techniques and materials to this day. Ron was another guy that often tied some flies with some small changes that he found made them fish better. One of the most telling details that Ron shared was how to tie hackle for a parachute pattern. I still do the parachutes the way he taught me, and find it makes them much easier to tie and finish off. It's a small change, but a big difference in the ease of finishing the fly. So I will share his idea. Looking down at your fly from above, while its still in the vice, tie in the hackle in front of the parachute post and wrap it counter clock wise. This helps the fibers of the hackle to swing out of the way when you whip finish at the eye of the hook. Try this too, you might find it helps a lot.

During the years of fishing I have found that "looking at the blue lines" on a map is a good way to maybe find some new fishing spots. This was first said to me by Rusty Gates. It still works. I now have some larger maps of some areas of our state so I can really look at the 'blue lines' closer. Find the line, find a road, drive around a bit and maybe find a new

spot that does not get a lot of fishing pressure. Now maybe there are no fish, or maybe they are very small fish, or maybe the trees are just too close for real casting, but how do you know until you look? So look.

I think back over the years and find that so much of what I do now, and how I do it, was improved by fellow Michigan Fly Fishing Club members. From fly tying techniques to casting improvements, I have evolved and improved and now find that I can catch fish just about anywhere. That I don't care if I catch fish is my issue, but at least I have better form and flies. And I must say, during my times on the river I have also become a better person. I share information and flies and techniques with others I meet on the river. Just this past September, Joyce was sitting on our dock when a float boat came down the river. The boat had a couple young men in it and they were fishing large streamers. She commented to them that there were some dry flies coming off the river and maybe they should change techniques. Well they commented back that they only had streamers and did not bring any dry flies at all. At that time she came up to the house and got a bunch of dry flies and gave the flies to the young men. So we are now the fly shop on the river that gives flies away to folks in need. We both wished them well and hoped that they learned from the gift.

As Rusty used to say, "It's all good." So I challenge you. During this winters meetings, find new folks to talk with. Find new folks to maybe share some fishing with. Find some new fishers to share experiences with and share knowledge. Learn from others and then share the learning. And plan some new spots to fish next season. Happy New Year!



January Tyer Of The Month

Featured Member Tyer

Because Disco Is Dead

Chris Hunter

Last year at the banquet, Jason Randall sent this pattern to the tying group as part of his showcase flies for the tying session. According to Jason, this is a wonderful entry level (i.e. warm up) fly. There are few materials and only basic tying techniques needed. The pattern is a good starter pattern for newer tyers and a perfect warm up for tying more complex patterns.

While this pattern is fairly simple, it is very effective. You can fish the pattern on its own, as part of hopper-dropper or even a tandem nymph rig. The UV dubbing and pearlescent flash on this fly really attracts attention and moves fish to action.

Jason's Flash Midge is a variation of the Disco Midge (pictured). Instead of peacock herl the choice is Peacock SPF Prism Dubbing, with black ultra-lace ribbing for contrast.

Happy tying - Chris

Flash Midge



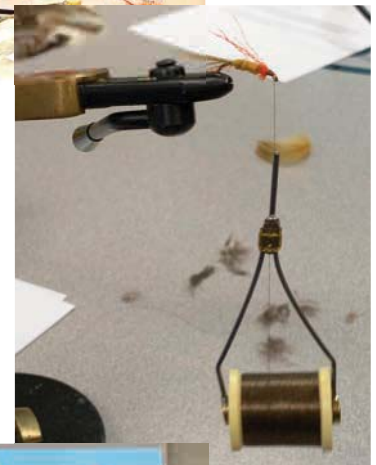
- HOOK:** Shrimp/Scud Size 16
- BEAD:** Silver Tungsten, matched to hook
- RIB:** Small black spanflex - ultra lace (as small as you can get)
- BODY:** Medium or small Wapsi pearl flat tinsel
- COLLAR:** Peacock SPF Prism Dubbing (UV Dubbing)

Featured Tyer

November



Spencer Vanderhoof and the Shaky Bealy



February 16, 2019

MFFC Member School

The MFFC Member School is coming up fast! Saturday, February 16, 2019 at Clarenceville High School, 20210 Middlebelt Road, Livonia, MI 48152 (across the street from the middle school where MFFC meets).

The school goes from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and includes food and lunch.

Contact Chris Hunter at attyhunter@gmail.com or (734) 207-0575 to sign up. Space is limited so sign up as soon as possible!



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events



John Pinto

Sand In My Shoe

There I was....The phone rang in my office and it was MFFC member Kathy Gross.

"You said if I ever went bonefishing I could borrow some of your equipment," she stated.

"No problem," I replied. "Where are you going?"

"My boyfriend Karl (Vogel) is taking me to Cuba for a week next month," she replied.

"How cool! What are the particulars? Cost? Logistics?" I inquired.

"We are going to Cayo Largo on the south side of Cuba. Karl has been there before. We fly out of Toronto and the cost is 1,175 dollars per person," she answered.

"What does that include?" I quizzed.

"Everything! Flight from Toronto. Lodging. Food," she answered.

We agreed to meet in Royal Oak the next day and I packed up two fly rods, two reels, a smattering of Bahamian bonefish flies and other assorted goodies. She was very excited about this upcoming trip, mentioned everything that Karl had told her and then explained,

"Oh, that is 1,175 CANADIAN dollars!"

"You're kidding! That is about 850 in U.S dollars at today's exchange rate. Where did Karl get the tickets?" I asked.

"The Vacation Station in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario," she answered.

I drove back to my office and

immediately looked up the phone number of the Vacation Station and called them. They said there was still room on the same dates as Kathy and Karl's trip and yes, they accepted American Mastercard.

Without telling my wife Ronnie, I booked two tickets.

Twenty minutes later my cousin Pete Mazzara and his wife Hermaine walked into my office as they were running errands on the east side. They said they were looking to get away to the sun and what would I suggest.

"Funny you should ask!" I answered and proceeded to tell them all about the Cuban trip I just booked.

Pete asked, "Can I use your phone?"

Ronnie took the news of our upcoming trip to Cuba to work the next day and her partner Dan and his girlfriend also signed on.

And so there were eight of us.

Karl sure knew his way around the Cayo Largo area which is made up of several barrier islands called the Archipeligo de los Cannarejos. (Canary Archipaligo).

The fishing for bonefish was somewhat disappointing as the flats were covered by turtle grass, the fish were hard to see and none of my flies were weedless. However, we persevered and caught several bonefish and Cousin Pete caught a nice 8-pounder on his 65th birthday. The flats were separated by deep channels where we cast to rolling tarpon.

It was a memorable trip, fun was had by all and I would certainly go back again. It was my one and only time fishing with Karl Vogel and admired his skill as a fly angler. Both Kathy and Karl have gone on to that snow white flat in the sky and are no doubt wading and stalking huge bonefish under eternal sunny skies.

God bless them both.

Christmas Shopping At The

Garage Sale





Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events



February Guest Speaker

Ron Barch

Everything you wanted to know about a split bamboo fly rod BUT were afraid to ask!

A look at the modern split bamboo fly rod

The cane rod your dad or grand dad fished with isn't the same one contemporary anglers are using today. Modern technology has partnered with old world craftsmanship to create the perfect fly rod. Rods that were once considered slow, soft and fragile are no longer (and probably never were) the standard. Join rod maker and instructor, Ron Barch and find out what has brought about a Renaissance in the world of split bamboo fly rods. Learn about what it takes to make a bamboo rod, which one's right for you, get a chance to see some of the modern magic wands and even something of what the future holds for the split bamboo fly rod.

A Moment Of

Levity

WIFE: I'm going to go order a thicker yoga mat.

HUSBAND: Why? You already have one. How many do you need?

WIFE: How many fly rods do you own?

Notes Of

Special Recognition

Thank you Jim Fischer for signing up to chair the 2019 MFFC Midwest Fly Fishing Expo security team!

Thank you to Dennis Brukwinski for helping set up the library in Jerry's post surgical absence!

November Rod Winner

Jen Klabunde



Notices

Date Changes

* The Boy Scout school was moved from June 1 at Independence Oaks to September 21 at Multi Lakes Conservation Association to accommodate instructor travel times and availability.

* Please note the Wa Wa Sum Family Outing is Thursday 7/18/19 through Sunday 7/21/19.

* There is indeed a May 1, 2019 Activities Meeting scheduled that was accidentally left off the original date publication listing.

* The May 1, 2019 Activities Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Clarenceville Middle School was inadvertently omitted from the original publishing of the meeting date calendar.

* A correction to prior published information: Trout Opener a.k.a. Opening Day is chaired by Al Haxton infoman984@sbcglobal.net whereas Opening Weekend is chaired by Scott Freeburg sfree357@aol.com.

Needed

Volunteers

BOOTH CHAIRPERSON NEEDED: Outdoorama Feb 28 - Mar 3, 2019.

Volunteers to teach how to tie Woolly Buggers needed as well.



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