



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

February 2019

Meet Your Recording Secretary

By Sybil Hunter



phone rings "Hi this is Steve."
"Hi Steve this is Sybil. Got a second?"

What is the correct spelling of your name? Steve Selinger. One L.

How many people are in your family?
"Two, me and my wife."

How many of them fly fish? "Just me."

How many people have you taught to fly fish? "I run the New Members Outing...."

What is the best part of being recording secretary? (*much laughter*)
"I'd have to say the board meetings."

What do you do in your spare time?
"My other big passion is sailing; I have a sail boat. I've done 17 or 18 Mackinac races just cruising and enjoying it. You start at Port Huron. It's a party with a bunch of guys. **At the end?** "Then there's a hell of a party at the Island."

What is your favorite fly & why?
"Probably a Parachute Adams because it always seems to work when nothing else is....Plus I can see it."

What got you into fly fishing in the first place? "Actually a friend of mine. He kinda dragged me along. He got into it, he kinda dragged me along and I got into it..." (*They still go fishing together.*)
Anybody we know? "Frank Kunick. He also helps out on the November outing."

Where would your fly fishing dream vacation take you? Somewhere in Montana.

What's your favorite fish? Steelhead, for catching.

What do you like to drink when left unattended? "Hey, now you're getting personal!" (*dramatic pause*) "Probably just beer."

MFFC Calendar



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.

April 3, 2019
Speaker Meeting
Speaker: Bill Mangan
Topic: Casting
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

April 17, 2019
Activities Meeting
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.



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)

Members School

On The Fly



Carolyn Bennett & Steve Selinger



Wade & Drew Lehmann



Bruce Strachan with Christa & Scott



Scenes From The Ultimate Fishing Show





MFFFC Business



Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board Meeting January 16, 2019

Rollcall

Present: Vanderhoof; Strachan;
Nowicki; Bada; Hunter; Selinger;
Summers; Oehring; Niemi; Freeburg

Absent: None

Guests: J. Deputat, B. Bocks

Approval of Minutes - approved.

Approval of Agenda - approved.

Officer Reports

President - Vanderhoof

Need Election Position Openings list.
Spencer not running again for club
President. Spencer thanked the people
who have supported him over the years.

Vice President - Strachan

Some issues with the distribution of
BOD material due to new email
addresses. Bruce circulated a list for
members to fill out desired address for
meeting material distribution.

Treasurer - Nowicki

Treasurer's Report accepted.

Corresponding Secretary - Hunter

Issue with J. Pinto presenting in
February. Sybil will investigate an
alternative speaker and reschedule
John's presentation.

Hatch: issue with not enough content
for December issue, might print double
issue at end of January.

Website: Even schedule updated
IF4 movie date scheduling pending
Costic Center response
Sybil is investigating several club
members having emails returned. This
seems to be a reoccurring issue with a
small number of members.

Membership - Bada

Current membership is 373 active
members, slightly behind last year

Events & Outings

Expo: No issues at this time.

Event Calendar: Updated. Boy Scout
School moved to 9/21, Women's Outing
on hold; July 18 Club Wa Wa Sum Outing
added.

New Business

BOD Openings For 2019 Election:

President, Treasurer, Membership, 2
Director At Large positions.

Proposed Outreach Program: to try to
recruit younger club member. Proposal to
invite members of college fishing clubs to
the Expo, and establish a grant/
scholarship program for college fishing
clubs. Both ideas were supported by
BOD. Expo committee working on the first
proposal. J. Bada volunteered to firm up a
proposal on the second idea.

Old Business

Conservation Corner Proposal: a
motion was passed by the board for Peter
Alberson to proceed with his proposal.

Library Cart: Approval to store a Library
card in the school storage room received.
BOD approval to go ahead with purchase
of cart.

Visitor Comments:

Bill Bocks commented that he agreed
with the proposal to offer tickets to the
Expo to local college clubs.

Roundtable

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:03 p.m.



2018 - 2019 Officers

President:

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Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Insider

Al The Hackleman

The Expo Is Coming.

WOW, its almost the end of February and that is always an exciting time for me.

This year will be the 30th Expo I have worked at. I remember the first few, back at the Southfield Civic Center. They were eye opening and every year was just a wonderful time of shared fun and experiences. During those first few shows I can remember finding all sorts of new things for my fly fishing and tying adventures. It seems like there was always an exciting item to be perused and talked about. I would walk around with some fishing buddies and between us we just had one heck of a wonderful time. One or the other of us would see something that piqued our interest, we would all look and discuss and theorize what or how it would help. Often the discussion would take a while. Sometimes it would result in a purchase, sometimes just the conversation was had. But the important thing was that we discussed and each of us had slightly different ideas about the item. How it would help, what it would do, how it would be used, if it was new what it replaced. Topics like that. One of the best parts of that discussion was that each of us would have different ideas. That truly added to my education of fly fishing. Another educational aspect of the Expo and walking around with friends was the

different ideas about flies and fly tying. It seems like back then I fished dry flies a lot. There were talks about the difference of dubbings used, feathers needed, and hooks required. So many different options. We discussed the difference between the upright divided wings of the traditional dry fly as opposed to the "new" idea of parachute flies. We went to some of the seminars about flies and sat and talked with some of the fly tiers at the Expo to learn more and get other ideas about flies needed and how to tie them better. Again, the education was wonderful and the shared fun was first rate. Probably the best thing about the discussion was the opportunity to also find out about other types of flies. It seemed like one or the other of us would offer the idea of wet flies or streamers. Now those were real eye opening talks. Wet flies were sort of strange and weird. Fishing under the water seemed a bit unknown after having the wonderful sight of seeing my flies actually eaten by rising fish. That was the fun part of dry flies. I could actually see the take which is such a great part of the sport for me. As for those streamer flies, that was another aspect of the sport I had never even considered. Again, the discussion with the others brought out ideas and thoughts that maybe these types of flies had some potential.

Of course there were always the new rods and reels to be looked at too. We visited the casting pond a few times each day. We would cast a new rod, share the opportunity, and then return it to discuss the rod and how we liked it. And talked more about what it would be best for and what river would be fished with the new rod. Would this new rod do good work

with streamers? How would it present a small dry fly? So many options and ideas and possible uses for each new rod that we cast. At that time most rods were still just two piece, but we sometimes tried multiple piece rods. We would compare them to the two piece rods of the same line weight and length. New reels were looked at also, and more talk about how they seemed to balance a line weight and what the drag was like.

There were just so very many new things to review and discuss and plan to purchase, or not. It truly was such a great weekend that when the Expo closed on Sunday afternoon there was a huge bummer feeling. Another year for the next Expo and the opportunity to look at all the fun stuff for our sport.

So here is the challenge for this year's Expo. Look at all the latest updates for equipment. Discover new fly fishing techniques. Find the new fly tying materials. Look for new flies and ideas. And discuss them all with your fishing buddies. And have fun. Enjoy the Expo.

See you there.





Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Midwest Fly Fishing Expo Headliners

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club again brings the largest fly fishing show to Metro Detroit on Saturday March 9, and Sunday March 10. The Macomb Community College Expo Center will be transformed into a weekend fly fishing academy offering dozens of demonstrations and presentations on topics ranging from casting to fly tying to “reading the water” to find those places most likely to be occupied by fish.

“We’ve expanded our lineup of guest speakers and are pleased to have Pat Dorsey, Jen Ripple, Taylor Edrington, Alice Owsley, and Tim Cammisa headlining the Expo,” said Club President Spence Vanderhoof. “We pride ourselves on bringing to Greater Detroit some of the most talented individuals in this sport. This year – our 42nd annual Expo -- is no exception. We’re especially pleased because this year’s headliners will appeal to a broader angling audience. Each excels in their own way in helping their fellow anglers become better, which adds to the enjoyment in this sport.”

While this year’s Expo headliners offer something for everyone, he said, the Expo is much more than the headliners. “We even have a Kid’s Korner where young anglers can learn to tie flies and learn to cast a fly rod” said Spence.

“Are you interested in fly tyers who specialize in traditional Michigan patterns or those who create exceptionally realistic flies? We have them. Are you looking for tyers who are innovators or create flies for toothy species like pike and musky? We have them. Are you looking for a new venue to cast your flies? We’ve got travel specialists who will help get you to the destination of your dreams. If you’ve been thinking of adding to your rod inventory but want to evaluate several models on a casting pond before you buy, we have the answer for you. If you’re a fan of angling literature or artwork, we’ve got specialists in those areas, too. If you only need to restock your supplies for the upcoming fly fishing season, we’ve got outfitters who’ll be happy to help you,” Spence said.

The show will feature dozens of free seminars about fly fishing techniques, fly tying and fly fishing locales and will bring together more than 100 exhibitors, including dozens of tyers, rod builders, artists, guides, outfitters and conservation organizations. “We’ve got exhibitors from every corner of the country,” Spence said. “While many of our exhibitors hail from Michigan and Ohio, we’ve also got outfitters, guides, artisans and artists from places like Washington State, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Texas, Colorado, Illinois, Connecticut and Maine, as well as several from Ontario,” he said.

The annual Expo is the oldest all-fly fishing show east of the Mississippi and is hosted by the Livonia-based Michigan Fly Fishing Club. The Macomb Community College Sports & Expo Center is located at 14500 E. 12 Mile Rd. in Warren. Admission is \$10 per person; boys and girls age 16 and under are free. Two-day tickets are \$15. Parking is free.

See below for more information about the Expo’s featured presenters.

Pat Dorsey – Author, Speaker, Outfitter, Guide, and Tying Enthusiast

Pat Dorsey, a native of Colorado, has guided for over 25 years. He spends approximately two hundred days a year on the water in a combination of guiding customers, hosting trips, and personal days fishing.

In 2005, Pat authored the book, *A Fly Fishing Guide to the South Platte River*, a complete how-to fly fishing manual for the entire South Platte River drainage. In 2009 Pat authored *Fly Fishing Tailwaters*, a comprehensive book on how to fish tailwater fisheries. In 2010 a companion book to *Fly Fishing Tailwaters* hit the shelves, *Tying and Fishing Tailwater Flies*, which is jam-packed with instructions for Pat Dorsey’s favorite “guide flies.”

You can learn even more about Pat at his website: <https://www.patdorseyflyfishing.com/>

Jen Ripple – Publisher, Professional Angler, Editor-in-Chief of DUN Magazine

Jen Ripple is the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of the international fly fishing lifestyle magazine, *DUN Magazine*. This career began as she started looking for fly-fishing magazines aimed at women. There weren’t any. So, in 2013, without any other media experience, she started her own: *DUN Magazine*, named for the just-hatched stage in the life cycle of a mayfly, one of the most famous flies in fly-fishing.

Jen has been seen on NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt, featured in many media outlets including *Outside Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *Trout Magazine* and *Blue Ridge Outdoors*, who named her one of six women who are revolutionizing the fly fishing industry. In addition, she can be heard on podcasts with Orvis, *The Woman Angler* and *Adventurer*, *The Kayak Fishing Show*, *The 12th Story*, *The Itinerant Angler*, *Fish on the Brain* and others. She is a member of the Board of Directors for Fly Fishers International



Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

More Midwest Fly Fishing Expo Headliners

and member of the Board of Directors for AFFTA.

For more about Jen's publication please check out the website: <https://dunmagazine.com/>

Taylor Edrington – Guide, Fishery Conservationist, Global Fly Fishing Enthusiast

Taylor Edrington was raised in the fly fishing industry and studied on the river under the tutelage of such greats as Gary Lafontaine, Mel Krieger, Chuck Fothergill, Mike Lawson and his father Bill Edrington.

A Suma Cum Laude graduate of the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado, Taylor now owns and operates Royal Gorge Anglers on the Arkansas River. Prior to his ownership of Royal Gorge, Taylor grew up guiding and instructing on the Arkansas River and various other Rocky Mountain watersheds. For just shy of a decade, Taylor guided in both Central and Southwestern Alaska as well as Argentina, and is a US Coast Guard Certified Saltwater Captain.

Along with his fly-fishing pursuits in the US, Taylor hosted fly-fishing adventure travel for clients on six continents through his global adventure travel business, The Fly Fishing Adventure Company. He also holds three fly rod world records. Beyond the details, Taylor is an extreme advocate for fishery conservation and simply strives to build awareness about the sport of fly-fishing for all ages.

Find out more about Taylor at his website: <https://www.royalgorgeanglers.com/>

Alice Owsley – Yellowstone Area Outfitter, Guide, Photographer, Outdoor Enthusiast

From battling big tuna in the ocean to tiny trout in mountain streams, there isn't much Alice Owsley hasn't done with a fly rod in her hand.

A fly rod led Alice from spring creeks in Ohio where she learned to pursue trout at the tender age of 8, to the Rocky Mountain West hunting for any fish that will take a fly. Bitten by the saltwater bug at a young age, Alice fished extensively for Tarpon, Bonefish, Permit and many other saltwater species throughout the Bahamas, Florida Keys, Belize and Mexico. She also spent a season helping clients catch giant rainbows while dodging mosquitos and Brown bears in Alaska. Alice is no stranger to Idaho's Clearwater River Steelhead or Carp swimming in the Missouri River. Through all of her travels, no place or fish holds her interest like the many species of trout that inhabit the waters in the Greater Yellowstone region.

Through 11 years of guiding winter snow coach trips inside Yellowstone National Park, Alice has accumulated a wealth of knowledge about the Yellowstone history, unique geology, and animal habits. If you want to know the name of a wild orchid, the eruption intervals of Great Fountain Geyser or how old a deer is before it turns into an elk, Alice is your guide. Birds along the riverbanks are no mystery to Alice, as she is an experienced birder with a long life list of species. Her background as a naturalist adds even greater detail to her clients' fishing adventures.

In addition to being a top notch fishing guide, Alice is a great cook, PSIA level II ski instructor and photographer. She also enjoys both Nordic and downhill skiing and grouse hunting. More than anything Alice loves a relaxing evening watching fish rise on the Madison or a challenging morning of gulper fishing on Hebgen Lake.

Check out more about Riverside Anglers at this website: <https://riversideanglers.com/>

Tim Cammisa – Fly Tying Enthusiast

Tim Cammisa has been addicted to fly fishing for about as long as anyone can remember. Although he and his wife Heather live in western Pennsylvania, fly fishing has taken him all over the country. Some of Tim's favorite waters include the mighty Delaware (where he has guided) and Missouri Rivers; though discovering small streams with wild trout still continues to excite him.

Tim is one of the new generation of fly fishers who have taken to social media to promote and teach the sport. A fly fisherman and fly tyer for more than 25 years, Tim started making fly tying tutorials and posting them on YouTube. It makes one wonder what the old school fly fishing and tying educators like Lee Wulff, George Harvey, Joe Humphreys, Helen Shaw, Charlie Fox and Vince Marinaro could have done if YouTube had been available in their day!

Tim and his coffee mug have co-starred in over 200 videos on many different fly fishing and tying topics, like purchasing and maintaining gear, tying with certain materials or a specific fly pattern, or giving back to charities such as Project Healing Waters. Tim has had a great response to his videos – he now has an audience of over 15,000 subscribers with over two million views!

You can view more of Tim's fly tying and fly fishing videos on his website: <http://www.troutandfeather.com/>



Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Midwest Fly Fishing Expo Guest Tyers



Tim Cammisa Lives in Western, Pennsylvania and has been a fly tier and fly fisherman for more than 25 years. His favorite rivers include the might Delaware and Missouri Rivers. His passion is small streams with wild trout. Tim takes to social media to promote and teach the sport of fly fishing and tying. He has appeared in over 200 videos on many different fly fishing and tying topics and he has over 15,000 subscribers with over two million video views. You can view his fly tying and fly fishing videos at: <http://wwtroutandfeather.com/>.



Gunnar Brammer grew up in Traverse City, MI and has relocated to Duluth, MN. He loves to target any fish species who wants to chase down and tackle a streamer, and he has love for the natives like Smallmouth, Pike, and Brook Trout. Gunnar started fly fishing when he was 15, but did not really dive into the sport until he turned 21. He has done a little bit of everything from chasing carp on Lake Michigan flats, to spear fishing Hog Snaper in the Bahamas, to jigging deep water Lake Trout on Lake Superior. Gunnar is a St. Croix Rods Pro Team Member, HMH Vices Pro Team Member, Hedron Inc. Tying Team Member, Deer Creek Pro Team Member, Ambassador for the Flymen Fishing Co, and a Friend of Ahrex Hooks. You can contact Gunnar at Brammer's Custom Flies <https://streamersbygunnar.com/>



Eric Austin grew up tying and fishing Catskill dry flies in the Adirondack Mountain region of New York State. Even in his youth Eric loved the old fly fishing books at the library, by the likes of Preston Jennings, Ray Bergman, Al McLane, J.Edson Leonard and George La Branche. Later, this love of history led to his reviving a column on the flyangleronline.com website called "Just Old Flies". Each week Eric would tie and photograph a fly and recount the history of it. The Just Old Flies column spurred Eric's historical flies by American classic tiers and the old masters of the U.K. Eric has been featured in the series of books published in London, "Fly Tiers of the World". His website is www.traditionalflies.com.



Jim Reed is a world class deer hair tier that is from Howell, Michigan, and has spun many amazing deer hair bugs. Back in 2006 in an FFF competition Jim was awarded 6 world champion medals on all 6 entries of his flies he submitted. Besides being a master at the spinning of Deer Hair, Jim is also a master in other fly tying areas; as he is a very versatile tier. He has demonstrated and taught around the Great Lakes region & Midwest, plus tying out at the FFF Conclave in Livingston and has demonstrated out at the Somerset Symposium in New Jersey.



Steve Wascher caught his first Trout at the age of 3 1/2, on a DRY FLY!! Steve is a third generation tier from Greenhurst, NY; and received basic instructions and guidance from his father; along with his grandmother in regards to tying. Steve is a well rounded tier, and enjoys all aspects of the art of fly tying; from creating a unique nymph, wet flies for steelhead, or his famed deer hair bugs for those Warmwater surprises. Besides tying Steve guides during the summer months for a wide range of Warmwater species and he enjoys writing articles as well; which have appeared along with his flies in Hatches Magazine, American Angler, and Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide. Steve is on the Pro Staff of Dyna King Vises; plus many others.



Jerry Regan a 3rd generation fly tier; is one of the true keepers of Michigan's Fly Fishing History; along with being one of the best commercial fly tiers in the business. Just like Trout Unlimited, Jerry was born along the fabled Trout Waters of the Au Sable River near Grayling. As a kid he learned fly tying and fishing from Michigan's Genuine Legends like Earl Madsen and Ernie Borchert. One thing unique for the patterns Jerry ties, he has never went with synthetics that have flooded the market place, but have stuck with the original materials that were used.



Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Midwest Fly Fishing Expo Guest Tyers



John Satkowski resides in Toledo, Ohio, where he fishes for all fish that swim in the rivers and lakes of southeastern Michigan and northwest Ohio. An artist, fly tying demonstrator, and fly tying instructor, John shares his love of fly tying and fishing as often as he can. John is an accomplished realistic tier and always tries to add a little realistic flare to his patterns. John is a pro tier for Flymen Fishing Company and a commercial tier for Rainy's flies with patterns ranging from dry flies, nymphs, steelhead, streamers, and flies for the salt. John's patterns often use creative fly materials and unconventional tying styles. You can find him at River Raisin Fly Co.



Paul Beel is owner/writer and fly tier of the website and fly tying business Frankenfly (www.frankenfly.com). His passion of fishing came from watching his grandfather create homemade lures as a kid. He felt he could continue in his grandfather's footsteps as a fly tier. Paul's tying specializes in modern streamers and classic Michigan dry flies. He enjoys fishing for Bass and Trout and is a Commercial Fly Tyer for Gates Au Sable Lodge and Fly Shop. He is on the Regal Vise Pro Staff, Partridge of Redditch Pro Team, Engrico Puglisi Pro Staff, and Deer Creek Pro Staff. His Patterns have been picked up by Orvis to be sold nationwide. You can contact Paul at www.frankenfly.com.



Dennis Potter started tying over 30 years ago before fishing on the Ausable River in Northern Michigan. He has spent 4 seasons at the Gates Ausable Lodge as a Fly Fishing Instructor and he still enjoys teaching fly tying instruction. His fly designs are fished extensively and with great success throughout the U.S. Dennis does have various Fly Tying Videos on the market and he is the owner of Riverhouse Fly Company. You will be able to find him tying at the show, with his well known high resolution video tying Demo show. Dennis's web site is: www.riverhouseflyco.com.



Mike Schmidt is owner & Fly Tyer for Angler's Choice Flies, based out of New Smyrna Beach, Florida; which started out from encouragement and influence from his dad. His fly tying consists of Winged Wet, Warmwater, Coldwater, and Saltwater patterns. Some of the accomplishment's of Mike, would consist of Orvis Fly Designer, Contract and Fly Tying Instructor for Mad River Outfitters, Signature Tyer for JagFly Company/Steelhead Alley, and has articles published in Hatches on line magazine. Mike's web site is: www.anglerschoiceflies.com.



Eli Berant grew up and lives in Michigan, so he has been surrounded by big water all his life. After getting his first fly tying kit at the age of 15, fly fishing and fly tying has been a passion of his ever since. Even though he really likes the "traditional" fly fishing experience, he has taken the concepts of the huge saltwater flies and began to apply them to his exploits here back in the big waters in Michigan. If you are interested in "Big Flies" for Lake Trout, Musky, Bass, or whatever will consume them, you can order these flies at Great Lakes Fly (www.greatlakesfly.com).



Todd A. Schotts is a custom production fly tier through Grizzly Flies by Schottsie. He is a very active member of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club, where he writes the "Fly of the Month" featured column for the clubs newsletter, chairs and helps out with various outings, schools, and events. He has had 2 of his flies appear in Eastern Fly Fishing Magazine in 2 different featured articles back in 2015, and 5 of his own designs appeared in 2017 Spring issue of Fly Fusion. You can find his flies at The Painted Trout in Dexter, Michigan and Red Fox Outfitters in Fenton, Michigan. His passion is being a Bass Bum, (chasing Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass in his Kayak), but also enjoys chasing Trout, or whatever will take a fly. You can contact him at GrizzlyFlies@yahoo.com.



February Fly Of The Month

Randall Kaufmann's

Mini Leech

By Todd A. Schotts

For this month's fly, I decided to bring a pattern I love to have in my fly boxes when fishing for early season Trout, later season Trout, and all season long for Smallmouth Bass. This month's fly is brought to you by Randall Kaufmann and is called the "Mini Leech."

The river report on Randall Kaufmann is that he started tying flies when he was 14 years old and started selling his flies when he was 15. He mentioned his first flies were sold for 10 cents a piece, and that was the start of his 15 year commercial tying career in which he tied well over 250,000 flies. Some of his fly patterns include: Marabou Damsel, Metallic Caddis, Signal Light, and the most famous of his patterns - Kaufmann's Stone. Besides being a well accomplished Fly Tyer and Fly Designer, he has written several excellent fly tying books. A few of them I would recommend are: *Fly Patterns*, *Tying Dry Flies*, and *Tying Nymphs*, just a small portion of his knowledge he shared with us in print. Randall is a fly designer for Umpqua. He owns and operates the famous Kaufmann's Streamborn Shops in Oregon and Washington State.

The Mini-Leech fly pattern was introduced in the early 1990's and resembles the Mohair Leech; but there is a difference between the two. The main difference is the Mini-Leech uses the TMC 200R hook in smaller sizes. The sizes he usually likes range from 10 to 14, but can be tied bigger. My preference is

the smaller sizes, as they work great. This fly was originally designed to imitate the many small leeches that the water inhabitants feed on. When tying this fly, remember that there are over 60 known species of leeches in North America and they belong to the same family as worms - Phylum Annelid. When leeches are at rest they can be short, thick, and wide. When swimming, leeches elongate their bodies up to twice their resting length; they have flattened wide bodies that swim in an undulating up-and-down motion. They can swim from 1 ½ to 2 inches per second, but some species can swim up to 6 inches per second. Remember leeches are an important food source (*lots of calories*) for Trout and Bass in lakes and slower streams, but they also can be found in fast waters. He does mention the best times to use leeches for Trout is in spring and fall.

When tying this unique pattern, it is pretty simple, but you will have to use a dubbing loop for the body, which can be tricky to do. For the bead on the front, it depends on how far you want the fly in the water column as to what type of bead to use. The bead helps to create the swimming motion of the leech. You can even just skip the bead all together if you want the fly to be toward the top of the water column. One thing to make sure, when you tie in the marabou for the tail material, tie it in behind the bead, but as you run the thread back, hold the marabou on top of the hook shank, so the tail is in proper position. If it makes it easier, wet your fingers and moistened the marabou so it is easier to work with. After you get the flash tied in, you will have to use a dubbing loop. This will make the dubbing get the desired leech look you are looking for. It can be done sparse or heavily dressed. Colors to use are olive, rust,



Mini Leech

HOOK: TMC 200R, sizes 6 to 14
HEAD: Bead (Ceramic, Brass, Copper, Tungston, or Disco Bead)
THREAD: 6/0 or 140 denier color to match body
TAIL: Marabou and Krystal Flash
ABDOMEN: Angora Goat, SLF Dubbing, or Cascade Euro Seal Dubbing

black, maroon, or red, and you can substitute a black tail with the different body colors.

When fishing this amazing fly, the fly line is very important (*3 lines he recommends are intermediate, slow to medium sinker, and medium to fast sinker*). When retrieving this fly pattern, a slow hand twist is highly recommended. There will be times when you will want to use a slow to very fast short-strip retrieves. Randall recommends, moving the fly 6 to 20 inches per second. Just to note, the retrieve is all dependent upon the construction, weight, size of the fly, and which fly line you chose.

Hopefully you will be slinging your bobbins to have some of these tiny morsels in your fly boxes. I know I will have a few in all the colors, with different weighted beads in my fly box for Michigan's famed Trout opener. Until next month, Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Fish Tails

John Pinto

Sand In My Shoe

There I was... It was 1988 and I was serving my fifth and final term as President of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club. The Club was growing and launching many new programs with the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo as our benchmark. I had no idea how far news of our Club had traveled until one day I received a phone call from Larry Opdyke, Chairman of the South Padre Island (Texas) Convention Bureau.

"You guys have quite an organization 'up there.' I was wondering what your experience was with Texas redfish," asked Larry.

"Not much. But it's on my radar screen," I replied.

"Well, I think you'all ought to come down here and check it for yourself and then tell a whole bunch of others. Cover your own airfare and I will arrange housing and a fishing guide," offered Larry.

I flew to Harlingen, Texas – home of the "Confederate Air Force!" – and Larry had sent one his people to pick me up. We drove from Harlingen to Port Isabel and then across the causeway to South Padre Island. I was put up in a condo complex owned by some Mexican Nationals who spent Easter and three other weeks there and is managed by a rental company the rest of the year. They only rent to "responsible individuals" which means

the "breakers" – those college students down for Spring Break who trash most of the hotels and guest houses on the island - are not eligible. I was glad to hear I was considered a "responsible individual."

I had dinner with Larry that evening and was joined by Gib Little who was to be my guide for the next four days. The menu was pure Tropical Texas – shrimp, oysters, clams, fish, etc. Gib was more interested in hearing about my bonefishing exploits than he was talking about the local redfishing. I remember Gib telling me that he and his brothers owned three drug stores in Brownsville, Texas and during the height of the breaker season they run their boats across Laguna Madre to get to work because the causeway is bumper to bumper. They keep a car on the other side to get back and forth to Brownsville. Gib picked me up the next morning and went to a restaurant near the marina for breakfast. We then motored for roughly forty-five minutes up Laguna Madre and away from the city. He looked at my fly box and saw all the bonefish flies that I used in the Bahamas and decided my flies might rule the day. I tied on a #4 Bobby which was created by old pal Bob Morato from Santa Rosa, California.

Gib began poling the boat and I quickly found Redfish and Sea Trout fishing a lot different than bone fishing. The water was not crystal clear like the Bahamas and so you do not actually see the fish. You cast ahead of the "nervous water" – moving schools of fish — and hope your fly will sink to the proper depth and be seen in the off-color water. It took awhile to get this right and I ended up with about a nine fish day, with the biggest being a seven pound Redfish.

We repeated this the next two days with

the same results as I started hooking both Redfish and Sea Trout with regularity from the boat. On the last day, Gib and I got up almost two hours earlier and went to South Bay. We arrived as the sun was rising in the eastern sky. Gib stuck his push pole in the mud and tied the boat to it. We began to wade around and soon spotted several Redfish with their backs out of the water and some even tailing. The off-color water allowed us to get super close and both Gib and I hooked several Redfish, Sea Trout and Flounder. My memorable Redfish I spotted coming down the shoreline – just under the surface waking the water. I waited and waited until he got within casting range and then threw a chartreuse Bobby in front of him. He hit it like a freight train, put up a spirited fight and surrendered. Gib guessed him at around 16-pounds. I thought it was closer to 25-pounds!

Parting with Gib was a hoot as we swore we would fish together again although we never have. He asked if he could grab a few flies from my fly box to which I of course agreed. I was distracted long enough to have my fly box depleted by 60%. Oh well....

Many thanks to Larry for the invite and to Gib for some super guiding. It was a memorable fishing experience.





Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events



Smallmouth Outing

Sign Up Starts

It's time to start thinking spring! Sign up for the annual Smallmouth Outing in Port Austin is now! The event runs May 16-19, 2019.

Sign up forms and info packets will be available at up coming meetings.

Payment deadline is April 10, 2019.

For more information, contact Renee Gall: reneeschatzleygall@gmail.com.

Needed

Volunteers

OUTDOORAMA: Feb 28 - Mar 3, 2019.

Volunteers to teach how to tie Woolly Buggers and teach casting on a casting pond.

MIDWEST FLY FISHING EXPO: March 9 - 10, 2019

Volunteers are needed for a whole host of fun positions at the Expo. Remember, the Expo is completely volunteer run!

Great Turn Out!

Member School

Over 40 Members attended the MFFC Member School on Saturday, February 16. The day started out right with open doors, hot coffee and a bevy of healthy breakfast items. (A much better start than last year in the cold tailgating until we could get the doors open.) All of our classes, including casting, tying, entomology, knots and equipment were well presented and well received. Many thanks to all of our lead instructors and assistants, many of whom were pulling double and even triple duty roles. A special thanks to the Eastside Boys (& Girl) who traveled long distances to impart their knowledge to our members. We also had a new MFFC first with 5 new members joining at the door!!! Welcome to Scott, Christa, Keith, Renee and Tim - we look forward to having you as part of the Club. Kathy, Don, Ron & her team of members put on a wonderful lunch. I'm proud to report at the end of the day we had full classes, full stomachs, a lot of knowledge and no injuries. Thanks to everyone who made this a success!

Note Of

Special Recognition

Thank you Tracey Partridge for being the volunteer chairperson for the Ultimate Fishing Show!

Thank you Spencer Vanderhoof for taking on the Outdoorama!

Showspan, the organizers of these events requested MFFC continue our fly tying booth and add a casting pond!

These events are great exposure to the sport we hold dear, our club, and our Midwest Fly Fishing Expo.

Reading The Hatch

Caught!



A Moment Of

Levity

Knitting Wife: I need some more yarn.

Fly Fishing Husband: But it's so expensive...My hobbies are free!



2019



Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Presented by the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

FREE SEMINARS, CASTING & TYING DEMOS

March 9th and March 10th

SHOW HOURS: Saturday 9am to 6pm & Sunday 10am to 4pm



**ADMISSION
ADULTS \$10**

**KIDS 16 &
under FREE**

2-DAY PASS \$15



Pat Dorsey



Jen Ripple



Taylor Edrington



Alice Owsley



Tim Cammisa

**Macomb Community College Sports & Expo Center
14500 E. 12 Mile Rd, Warren, Michigan 48088**

Includes: Free Parking, Guest Fly Tiers, Fly Shops, Kids Korner, Come Cast a New Fly Rod on One of 2 Ponds, Fly Fishing 101 Presentations, Seminars, Guides and More!



FOR CLUB INFO: www.mffc.org FOR EXPO INFO www.midwestflyfishingexpo.com



Michigan Fly Fishing Club
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