



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

February 2020

5 Fishing Tips (Okay maybe 7)

Written By Sybil Hunter using Chris Hunter's notes loosely translated from local Sanskrit.

February welcomed Carl Heuter, historian, fly fisher, scientist, architect, polyglot, bamboo rod builder, presenter, fly fishing historian, owner of Wanigas Rods, MFFC Member, and general all around knowledgable guy. If you call him on the phone, expect him to answer in German.

As for the promised Five Great Secrets To Improve Your Fly Fishing In Michigan? They were uncovered by the astute listeners of Carl Heuter's presentation of the historical geo-fluvial awesomeness that is our state.

Fishing since the 1960's, Heuter has a BA in Science and Architecture, and is working on his next degree as you read this. What does he do? Read. There are 5,000 plus fly fishing related titles available on the market — more than any other sport. For example, in 1368 Dame Julia published a book on fly fishing, the second most published book, next to the Bible itself.

Echoing fellow club member and columnist Al Haxton's musings, Heuter says to read to learn new things, talk to the people around you to learn new

things, and pay attention to the environment to learn new things. In short - never stop learning.

Sharing a few of his own pieces, Heuter pointed out there is a plethora of fly fishing art as well. Collect it. Enjoy it. Show others. Talk about fly fishing.

Historically speaking, long about 350,000,000 B.C. Michigan was underwater. The state is still home to the ancient fish of that time — Sturgeon. In Michigan, records show these fish grew to be 12 feet long and weigh 1,100 lbs.

Flashing forward to merely 10,000 years ago, glaciers a mile thick ran over all of Michigan. (For reference, Heuter said that is four times the height of the Ren Cen in The D.) The weight of the glaciers physically pushed Michigan down, it has since been rebounding about a centimeter a century. Those glaciers stopped in Michigan an netted glacially deposited alluvial plateaus.

Such plateaus are only found in three places on Earth, of which Alaska and Michigan are two. Notably in Michigan, according to Heuter's research, the Au Sable, Manistee and Muskegon Rivers are all alluvial plateaus, which create perfect conditions for spring creeks. Plateau pressure pushes the ground down, and subsequently the water up, into the stream. Fish will seek the cold water springs coming into the river. Find the right stream, find the fish, it's all science and geology.

Continued on page 2

MFFC Calendar



February 19, 2020

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

March 4, 2020

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

March 14 & 15, 2020

Midwest Fly Fishing Expo
Macomb Community College
Sports & Expo Center
14500 E 12 Mile, Warren

March 18, 2020

Speaker Meeting
Speaker: Sara Thomas
Topic: MI Fisheries Update
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.



Continued from page 1

Out on the river you bump into people. Heuter bumped into many people, one of which was Rusty Gates himself staring at the water intently. A leaf floated by him, to which Gates responded, “Damn. We lost another one.” Every leaf that is captured, is food for the invertebrates in the river. Leaves rot, thus contributing to food in the river system. More food = more insects = more fish. Lost leaves = lost food = lost fish.

As we all know, the fish in the river were killed because of the logging industry, then kept out because of boaters demands. Education is key. Through logging, the river system lost 75% to 80% of the organic base load, and lost 75% to 80% of the fish. As for the portion of the Au Sable River that became a fish ghost town, Heuter said he had been testing the water pH. The pH rose from 6.5 to 8.3, which caused the fish to be effected to the extent where the slime on their scales disappeared, so they got out of Dodge. Too much or too little pH hurts the fish.

August 2017 Heuter checked the pH. It went from 7.2 to 7.8 — a 100% increase. Then it went to 9.3 — a 1000% percent increase and the fish left the system. No one knows why things go back to “normal” and the fish come back slowly.

Bugs help the river. Leave a light on and watch what happens. Tune in to the river system.

Structure is needed for spawning. Fish look for water speed and protected areas for spawning.

People see it an exploit it. Twenty barrels of Grayling were shipped to Chicago and Detroit *daily*. The Au Sable was historically lined with Oak, not pine. It would still be lined with hardwoods, had it not been for the logging industry. The boating/tubing public do not want

logs in the river stopping their downstream mobility. A loss of logs is a loss of habitat, a loss of habitat is a loss of fish. People see it and exploit it.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is working on habitat. Fish need to be able to reproduce and not be out competed. For example, Brook Trout are not indigenous to the Au Sable, only Whitefish and Grayling. [Dovetailing with this, Sara Thomas, visiting in March from the DNR, will address current habitat restoration plus invasive species, and Nicole Watson in April will address the Grayling Initiative.]



People are a great resource, said Heuter. The images of well known fly fishers graced the screen one by one. Among them were: Carl Richards. Joan Wulf. Bob Summers. Art Neuman, a tool & die man who, owning Wanigas made rods part-time. According to Heuter, Neuman had a passion for teaching and educating. Heuter had run into all of them on the stream, and every one of them stopped to help.

Heuter said flies do not have to be perfect to catch fish. He showed pictures of some *ugly* vintage flies. One of them was wool and copper wire — that’s it.

Heuter ties one box of flies for each hatch. When he fishes, he takes one box only; look at the light on the wall, he said. Take flies in multiple colors said Heuter. Emerging flies are lighter, but after an

hour they are darker. Match the flies to the color; use multiple colors. Use variations. Tying #10-20 Rusty Spinners, crystal flash is in the wing of some, but not others. Flash at night catches the fish’s attention.

From July 15 to September 15, there is a white insect out and about. It is not represented in fly shops, but fish look for them. They have a white body, gold rib, pink thorax and iridescent wing. Heuter created a pattern on #12/14 Daicci crystal hooks. From May to July Heuter uses a #12 yellow stone fly. (If you are not losing flies, you are not close enough said Heuter.)

It’s all about education, observation, casting/tying/wading skills honed, weather, stream conditions, the hatch schedule, terrain, and patience. “Luck comes to those who work the hardest,” said Heuter.

Winter fishing is invaluable according to Heuter. Find out where the edge of the ice on the river is in the winter, that is where the fish are. Then in spring, remember that same location where the edge was in the winter, the fish will be there in the same lines as winter.

Look at the rocks. Use that fly. Ants. When ants hatch, they are on the river. Inspect backwater eddies for dead flies. Use that fly.

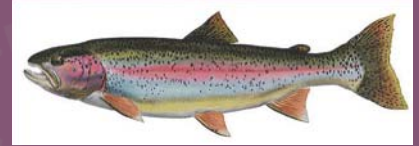
Remember clothes matter too. Use camo to hunt fish. When camouflaged, fish do not see you; you can get closer to the fish (even though the look might scare some *people* away). There are big Brook Trout in the river, you just have to find them.

When the light goes off of the trees and no sun is in the clouds, big fish move out into the river.

In closing, Heuter said the most important thing is to teach young people. They get in the water, many have never been in the river before and share some choice words in their astonishment. Encourage them. Help them. Educate them.



MFFC Business



Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Board Meeting January 15, 2020

Rollcall

Present: Nowicki; Strachan; Oehring; Niemi; S. Hunter; Selinger; Summers; Bada; Mayes; Vanderhoof
Guests: Dennis Brukwinski

Approval of Minutes - Approved
Approval of Agenda - Approved

Officer's Reports

President - Nowicki

Nowicki distributed a handout of recent conversations with the Michigan Gaming Division. It showed we will require careful accounting of the different raffles we hold during the year. The Treasurer and the raffle chairman will have responsibility to maintain the required records.

Vice President - Strachan

Strachan thanked Nowicki and other Board members for filling in for him at the December board meeting.

Treasurer - Oehring

Treasurer's report accepted as submitted.

Corresponding Secretary - Hunter

The Hatch is in process but needs more material to fill the 8 page minimum. Launch of the new Expo website will be delayed. The proposed April viewing of the IF4 movies will be moved to September activities meeting date. S. Hunter reviewing pricing information on pins or patches for our 50th year. The Board to go with the fish shaped design. Vanderhoof mentioned we should make a similar design banner for the club booth. This was also agreed upon by the Board.

Membership - Niemi

Current: 344 active paid members

Events & Outings

2020 Expo: Mayes reported we signed a 2 yr contract with ETIX to allow online ticket sales for the Expo. Payments are made online and a service charge is applied to the purchaser.

New Business

Websites By Cheryl: S. Hunter indicated we received an invoice from Cheryl Davidson for 2020 ongoing support for our website. The Board agreed we need to continue this support for Harry Briggs.

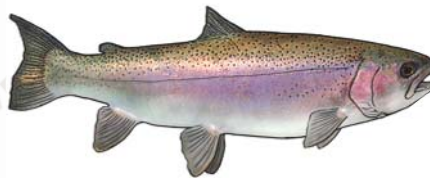
Old Business

REI Class: Summers provided more info on a

proposed fly fishing class at REI. REI recommends a basic course about a half hour in length. We need to find someone who will be willing to teach such a course.

Visitor Comments: none

Adjournment: 9:18 p.m.



AmazonSmile Helps MFFC

Do you buy stuff from Amazon? If so, why not sign up for Amazon Smile and let it donate cash to the Michigan Fly Fishing Club.

AmazonSmile is a website operated by **Amazon** with the same products, prices, and shopping features as **Amazon.com**. The difference is that when you shop on **AmazonSmile**, the **AmazonSmile** Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Here's how to shop with AmazonSmile:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
3. Choose a charitable organization to receive donations, or search for the charity of your choice (Michigan Fly Fishing Club is there).
4. Select your charity
5. Start shopping!
6. Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. You must be purchasing your items from smile.amazon.com in order for the Club to receive the donations.



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February Fly Of The Month

Paul H. Young's

P.H.Y. Redhead

By Todd Schotts

For our February fly of the month, I am honoring a Michigan legend. Researching this fly pattern, the history of the designer, his friends, and the fly, was amazing. The fly I am talking about is the P.H.Y. Redhead, by Paul H. Young.

The brief river report on Paul H. Young is truly amazing. What he did for the sport of fly fishing, rod building, and fly tying here in Michigan, in the Midwest, and Nationally is totally remarkable. Paul is not actually from Michigan. He was born in Arkansas in 1890. Research indicated he loved to fish the famed Mississippi River and the Ozarks as a kid. He graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1912, and shortly after, he married in 1921, then moved to the Detroit area. Roughly three years later he opened a fishing tackle store located at 8065 Grand River Ave, in Detroit. From the reviews I pulled up on line from back then, it sounded like his shop was the "all the rage destination for serious fly fishers." Funny thing, long before Paul became known for his amazingly well sought after fly rods, he was actually nationally known for his fly tying. His first mail order catalog (in 1927) offered flies like the P.H.Y. Redhead (Split-Wing Tedhead), the Bi-Visible, and his well talked about Strawman Nymph. Plus he loved to tie and sell size 20 midge nymphs, most likely way before most fly fishers ever decided to use these tiny morsels. One unique thing I learned was, the profits from his fly tying (not from his fly rods) helped his company make it through the Great Depression. Nowadays his bamboo rods are well sought out for his name and the high quality. He unfortunately left us in 1960, but his legacy for rod building was carried on by his son John Young and R.W. Summers.

The fly is a cross over fly from Trout to the arena of warm water for Bass. This fly was originally developed in the 1930's as an extension of the Trude Squirrel Tail Flies as a big dry fly for those big night feeding Browns. This fly actually goes by two names, P.H.Y. Redhead, but as I mentioned when Paul's catalog came out it was then labeled the Split-Wing Redhead. The properties, or known assets of this fly, are great floatation, ruggedness, and a very buggy appearance. In the writings from Paul, he mentioned "Seducing large Smallmouth Bass in a river near Detroit and catching 19 inch plus (fish)." Chauncey K. Lively mentions fishing with his wife, "She tied on a size 10 Redhead while he used spinning gear. After two hours later he landed two bass while his wife landed over two dozen Bass." With that, the word got out in Chauncey's writings and this pattern became ever more popular with Bass fisherman using fly rods.

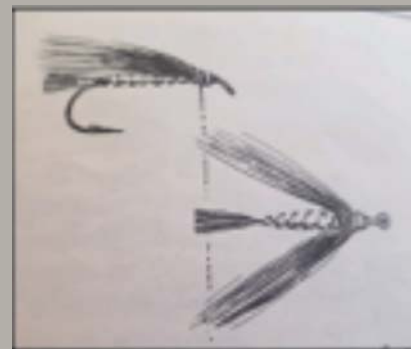
When tying this pattern, the hackle should be dense with large hackle fibers. The body calls for red floss, which was a major player for body material on flies at that time. It does look awesome but one drawback with floss, when it gets wet, it turns dark red to almost black depending on how deep you fish it in the water column. I have switched the red floss to synthetic material, either red mylar or holographic tinsel, but by using synthetic materials it does take away the buggy appearance of this fly. The synthetic material does stay red in appearance unlike the floss on the original. One trick you will have to master is tying in the squirrel tail. The squirrel tail is a smooth slick material, like buck tail. I have found out if you wet the bunch of hair you are tying in, it helps to cut down the slickness and makes it easier to tie.

When fishing this historic fly pattern, it is twitched, or as Paul said, "Tweaked on the surface." This is a dry fly, so it should be fished that way with dry fly floatant to aid in its floatation. When dead drifting this fly, remember to make those mends, "Tweaked on the surface."

P.H.Y. Redhead



HOOK: 3x Long dry fly sizes 4 to 10
THREAD: Yellow 140 Denier or 6/0
TAIL & BODY: Red floss or red
RIBBING: Fine or medium solid silver tinsel
WINGS: Red squirrel hair
HACKLE: Chocolate brown dry fly



This winter make sure you give yourself some time at the tying desk to tye some of these cross-over beauties to either entice the weary Brown Trout at night or the surface dancing of Smallmouth Bass. Until next month tight lines & snazzy flies.

Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Expo Pull Out

Headliners



Ed Engle has been an avid fly fisherman for more than 40 years. He has fly fished throughout the continental United States, Alaska, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Mongolia and in Europe for a variety of gamefish species with a special emphasis on trout. As a fly fisherman Ed is especially interested in small fly tactics and techniques. His small fly fishing research has taken him to a many of the West's famous tailwaters and to spring creeks across the country. He is also dedicated to fly fishing small streams and high country lakes for wild trout. Ed balances out his interest in the "small side of fly fishing" with the avid pursuit of king salmon on the fly.

Ed lives in Manitou Springs, Colorado within 40 miles of the South Platte River, one of Colorado's premier tailwaters where he guided fly fishers for more than 20 years before he retired in 2010.



Jason Randall has been an outdoor writer for the last twelve years with feature articles appearing regularly in American Angler, as well as Fly Fisherman, Eastern Fly Fishing, Northwest Fly Fishing and many other outdoor magazines. He is a veterinarian certified in fish health and medicine. He is also a member of the World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association and the Society for Freshwater Science.

He is the author of the Fly Fisher's Guide trilogy of books: Moving Water: A Fly Fisher's Guide to Currents (2012), Feeding Time: A Fly Fisher's Guide to What, Where and When Trout Eat (2013), and Trout Sense; A Fly Fisher's Guide to What Trout See, Hear and Smell (2014).

In 2017, Jason's fourth book, Nymph Masters: Fly Fishing Secrets from Expert Anglers, was released from Stackpole/Headwaters Books. Combining secrets, tips and hints from some of the top nymph fishermen in the sport, Nymph Masters thoroughly studies all aspects of nymph fishing.

Temple Fork Outfitters (TFO) named Jason to their National Advisory Team to develop a new and innovative nymph fishing rod. In October 2017 the 'Drift Rod' was released to wide acclaim as the first truly convertible rod, changing in length from 9, 10, 11 or 12 feet. Each year, Jason appears and presents at shows and events throughout the North America.



Whitney Gould is a 7 time Spey-O-Rama world casting champ, and considered one of the world's best two-handed casters. Whitney guides for Head Hunters Fly shop on the Missouri River in Montana, after a long career at the legendary Alaskan fishing outfit, AK West, where she was an integral part of a guide staff that pioneered spey fishing for King Salmon. In the autumn, Whitney heads to California's Klamath River to teach Steelhead Schools and to fish for Steelhead. In the winter, she guides Steelhead anglers on California's North Coast.

Whitney guides for Warriors and Quiet Waters, a therapeutic program that takes post-9/11 combat veterans and their families fishing. Whitney is a FFI Certified Two-hand Casting instructor and is a member of Simms Fishing Products, RIO Products and Sage Fly Fishing Elite Pro Staff.

Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Headliners



Devin Olsen: I started fly fishing at age 9. I will never forget my first day where I caught a cutthroat on an ant in the first meadow of the famed Slough Creek in Yellowstone on a hand me down fiberglass 7 weight! Though I'd been fishing with hardware since I was a toddler, that day started an addiction to fly fishing that I can't seem to shake. When I fished against Lance Egan and Ryan Barnes in the former Outdoor Life Network's Fly Fishing Master's in 2004, I knew I had to find a way to compete in the sport I loved.

The year 2017 marked my 9th consecutive berth as an angler for Fly Fishing Team USA in the 37th Fips Mouche World Fly Fishing Championships in Slovakia. In 2015 I was incredibly fortunate to finish with the individual bronze medal and even more fortunate to have been a part of the squad that won the first team medal (a silver) for the USA at the world fly fishing championship in Bosnia. In 2016 we followed that feat with a team bronze in Vail, Colorado. Fly fishing competitions have exposed me to tactics and techniques from incredible teammates and fellow fly anglers from across the globe.

Away from competitive fishing, fish have sculpted my professional life as well. I hold a bachelor's degree in ecology and a master's degree in fisheries science and spent 3 years working as a fisheries biologist before taking on Tactical Fly Fisher as a full time business in 2017. I have a wonderful wife Julia of 12 years, a four year old son Levi whose favorite fish are bull trout, and a 10 month old daughter who shows early signs of fly fishing virtuosity. What more could a guy ask for?



Kiki Galvin grew up in Corning, New York, where she learned to fish at the age of five on Keuka Lake, one of the Finger Lakes. Ever since she hooked that first fish, she has carried that thrill and passion in her heart and has tried to share that passion with others. She attended Reel Women Guide School in 2002, and then returned to Northern Virginia, where she has been guiding in waters near and far ever since. Her motto is "Don't be misled when you can be Ms. Guided."

Kiki is a former President of Chesapeake Women Anglers, serves presently as Vice President of her Trout Unlimited Chapter in Northern Virginia, and has volunteered for Casting for Recovery since 2001 and for Project Healing Waters since 2007.



Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Featured Guest Tyers

Expo Pull Out



Tom Starmack grew up in Minnesota fishing for Walleye and panfish. Tom now is living in northern Illinois, where he fishes for Bass and panfish in small local lakes and travels to pursue Trout and Salmon. He enjoys the challenges of the small spring creeks and coulees of the "Driftless Area" in southwest Wisconsin. Tom gives presentations and demonstrations of fly tying and fishing techniques at shows and to TU organizations and local fishing clubs. Tom's ties have appeared in several issues of American Angler magazine and in the book 'Nymph Masters: Fly Fishing Secrets from Expert Anglers' by Jason Randall. Tom is a member of TFO's Pro Staff and an Umpqua Pro Guide. You can see his work at zoeticflies.com.



Tim Jacobs, a native of Michigan, is a fly fisherman and fly tyer from the Roaring Fork Valley. He has guided in the Steamboat Springs area and the Roaring Fork Valley. Additionally, he was a Federation of Fly Fishers certified casting instructor who taught the Sage Casting Clinics during the 1990's. He works as an instructor at the Michigan Youth Trout Camp each summer and is a casting instructor for Project Healing Waters in western Colorado. Tim has published numerous articles and authored the book *Tying and Fishing Deer Hair Flies* (2018, Stackpole Books). Tim appears at numerous fly fishing shows and fly shops as a demonstration fly tyer for Whiting Farms Pro Team, Regal Vise Pro Staff and Nature's Spirit Pro Staff.



Steve Wascher caught his first Trout at the age of 3 ½, on a DRY FLY!! Steve is a third generation tier from Greenhurst, NY. He received basic instructions and guidance from his father; along with his grandmother, regarding 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 warm water surprises. Besides tying, Steve guides during the summer months for a wide range of warm water 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.



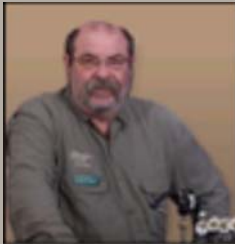
Jerry Regan, a third generation fly tier, is one of the true keepers of Michigan's Fly Fishing History, along with being one of the best commercial fly tiers in the business. Just like Trout Unlimited, Jerry was born along the fabled Trout Waters of the Au Sable River near Grayling. As a kid he learned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

Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Featured Guest Tyers



Paul Beel is owner/writer and fly tier of the website and fly tying business *Frankenfly* (www.frankenfly.com). His passion of fishing was from watching his grandfather create homemade lures as a kid. He felt he could continue in his grandfather's footsteps as a fly tyer. Paul's tying specializes in modern streamers and classic Michigan dry flies. And he enjoys fishing for Bass and Trout. He is a commercial fly tyer for Gates Au Sable Lodge and Fly Shop; he is on the HMH Visers Pro Staff, Partridge of Redditch Hooks, J. Stockard Fly Fishing, TFO Rods, Deer Creek, and Fishpond Pro Teams. His Patterns were picked up by Orvis to be sold nationwide. You can contact Paul at www.frankenfly.com



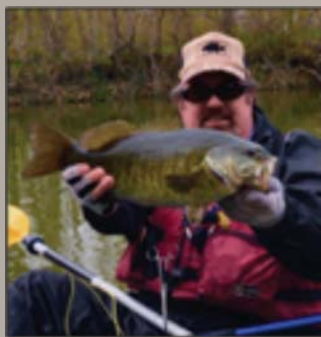
Dennis Potter started tying over 30 years ago, before fishing on the Au Sable River in Northern Michigan. He spent four seasons at the Gates Au Sable Lodge as a fly fishing Instructor and still enjoys fly tying instruction. His fly designs are fished extensively with great success throughout the U.S. Dennis has various fly tying videos on the market and 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, warm water, cold water, and saltwater patterns. Some of Mike's accomplishment's are Orvis Fly Designer, Contract and Fly Tying Instructor for Mad River Outfitters, Signature Tyer for JagFly Company/ Steelhead Alley, and articles published in Hatches online 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 of 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).



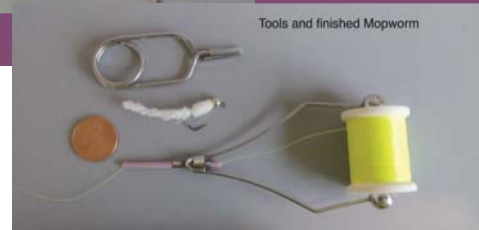
Todd A. Schotts is a custom production fly tier through *Grizzly Flies by Schottsie*. He is a very active member of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club, where he writes the "Fly of the Month" featured column for the club's newsletter, has chaired previous outings, and helps out with various schools and events. He has had two of his flies appear in Eastern Fly Fishing Magazine in two different featured articles back in 2015, and five of his own designs appeared in the 2017 Spring issue of Fly Fusion. You can find his flies at Red Fox Outfitters in Fenton, Michigan, plus with various guides, and with TFO Rod Pro Team. 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 Featured Tye



MopWorm Jigs
#5 1/64 ounce
#6 1/48 ounce



Tools and finished Mopworm

Dan Walker

Mopworm

Recently I had my best day in about three seasons, 11 for 19 on fat Brown Trout and one Steelhead, 100% on White MopWorm under a bobber. The MopWorm has a Soft Durable, Floppy, tail with a Solid silhouette. Aside from it's unique appearance and action for a fly, there are a lot living of living things that this fly would represent to trigger a game fish. In white or chartreuse it will trigger a minnow bite. In other colors it would resonate with a fish's instincts to eat many other prey types: leaches, Hellgrammites, worms, Damsel nymphs, saltwater Cinder Worms (Palo Worm Hatch). Every Fresh Water fish on the planet, has to retain from its infancy, some residual instinct to eat every nematode or midge larva it sees.

This wormlike tail should work in other fly types besides jigs and rip and fall bead head patterns. It should also work for divers, darting floating Minnows, and weedless lilly pad snakes. It would also make nice tails on Mice.

MopWorm

I will bring some hooks and beads to tie some Trout and panfish bead head barbless jigs and couple of Bass patterns using foam. I will have various chenilles that work well for this. Any chenille can be used for this pattern.

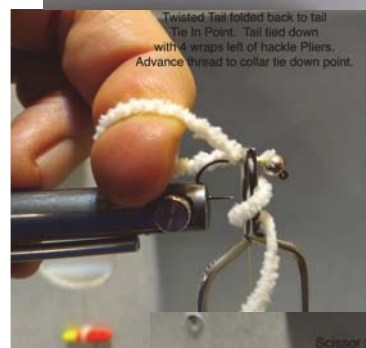
BRING HACKLE PLIERS. If you can, bring white or chartreuse thread 140 denier, although other colors of thread will be useful.

HOOK: #8 barbless 60° jig hook

BEAD: 4.5mm silver brass bead
THREAD: 40 D chartreuse or white.
TAIL & BODY: Chenille slightly thinner than the tail and body you want, at least 5 inches long to make this 2 inch fly.
TOOL: HACKLE PLIERS, HEAVY WITH NARROW JAWS is better to twist the chenille tighter.

- #1. Wrap a thread base for about 2/3 of the shank then back to against the bead.
- #2. Start binding down the tip of the chenille behind the bead and wrap in back on top of the shank to almost the end of your thread base. This builds up a base to make your body thick enough to match your tail.
- #3. Use the HACKLE PLIERS to grip the chenille almost 3 inches back.
- #4. Twist the chenille so the factory twist in the thread core gets TIGHTER, A LOT of twists.
- #5. Fold the twisted chenille at its mid point around a finger tip and reattach the chenille right next to the plier jaws to the hook at the tail tie in point.
- #6. You have tied a loop of twisted chenille to the hook and are holding it back. A slender tool like a scissor point is uses to slide the loop of chenille off your finger tip and keep holding the loop back under tension. There should be a one inch tag of chenille hanging down just forward of your twisted tail loop.
- #7. Use two fingers to help the loop of chenille slide off the end of your scissor points and to keep it under some tension and help it to begin to back twist upon itself.
- #8. Wrap the free one inch tag forward and tie it off right behind the bead head.

This all takes about 90 seconds. These are fun to tie and catch fish.



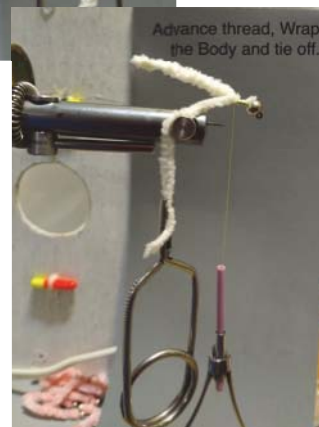
Twisted Tail folded back to tail tie in point. Tail tied down with 4 wraps left of hackle Pliers. Advance thread to collar tie down point.



Scissor tips inserted into loop and used to hold loop taut.



Pull on tail tip and help it twist back the opposite way of the extra twists you added.



Advance thread, Wrap the Body and tie off.



Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Wanderer

Al The Hackleman

Winter Thoughts

I am sitting looking out a window at wonderful sunshine. Thoughts come racing over me about how lucky I am and how fly fishing, and The Michigan Fly Fishing Club, have been a big part of that luck.

So I am sitting in North Carolina right now, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. It's 56 degrees and the sun is beautiful and bright on the surf. Joyce and I are here for a visit and we are both hoping to actually do some fly fishing in that ocean in front of us. We have brought some 9 and 10 wt salt water approved rods and reels with us along with a decent assortment of salt water flies tied on stainless steel hooks. Some of the flies we tied ourselves and some we purchased here. We have our waders and boots with us along with some small packs to carry our gear. We are ready for some fun, but frankly are a bit intimidated by the surf and wind here.

We have both talked about how we plan to fish this area but most of the talk



and planning was at home before actually observing what we have to contend with. So now we are a bit concerned and bit afraid.



I have been fortunate enough to have actually fished in salt water a few times before, but must say it was in much calmer waters than we have here now. So while Joyce and Nellie are out walking the beach I am sitting and thinking about how much MFFC has impacted me over the years.

Perhaps one of the best things was the opportunity years ago to actually work at a fly shop. Back around the turn of the century I was lucky to work for John Bueter at his fly shop in downtown Northville, Bueter's Outdoors. I was lucky enough to land a part time job there because of my long friendship with Ron Angove. We both put in some hours in the shop, and both came away with some great deals and wonderful memories. Between working the cash register and teaching fly tying, we each had a lot of great experiences and shared laughter. And as "Pro" guys we also had the opportunity to get some great deals on fly fishing stuff. So when folks at the club would mention special kinds of fishing, it was really simple to get some of the special items needed.

We all know that in our club there are folks that fly fish for just about every fish known, and tools that are used for special times fishing for those fish. That alone is just one aspect of the many folks we come

in contact with during our meetings. Our club offers so many opportunities to find out new ideas, to learn about special flies, to hear about great fishing areas, that the learning just never stops. I have read in books that many folks consider fly fishing the life long learning experience, and I must say that sure seems about right to me. It does seem that I am constantly learning about new ideas or techniques, new fishing styles, new flies, new spots, or maybe just new ways to fish spots I have fished before. Add to the learning at club meetings to the mind boggling stuff we can see and learn at the Fly Fishing Expo, and it is very true that we keep learning all the time.

From that learning we expand our horizons to include new fish species, new areas to fish, new streams and lakes, maybe even new states to fish, or maybe new types of water, like salt. The best part of any of those new ideas is the fact that all we need to do is ask around at any meeting about who, what or where someone else has fished. There are always other members that are very happy to share information with us. And how lucky is that? Our group is not made up of folks that keep secrets, but is mostly folks that love to share.

Right now its only a few short weeks until The Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, and after that its only a few more short weeks until the Opening Day of Trout Season. So make a promise to yourself, expand the fishing fun this year. Talk to other members about other fish, other streams, other states. Expend your horizons for future fishing, and make great memories for future thoughts.





Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events



Promote Fly Fishing

Outdoorama

Club Volunteers Needed!

Every year the Michigan Fly Fishing Club participates in both the Ultimate Fishing Show and the Outdoorama.

Since our constitution states our Club of fly fishers is “dedicated to the promotion of fly fishing, the preservation of the art of fly tying,” this is a wonderful time to tie with youngsters and introduce them to all things fly fishing, and let them tie their first fly. It is also a great opportunity to promote our club and our own Midwest Fly Fishing Expo which occurs only a couple weeks later.

I will tell you that over the years that I have participated I have had a wonderful experience with these youngsters. They leave our booth, not only with their own fly, but with a smile and warm feelings towards those somewhat crazy anglers in the Michigan Fly Fishing Club. Every year we get repeat visitors and maybe one day club members.

So think about helping the club out. You can tie whatever you please, but for the most part we tie the famous Woolly Worm and Woolly Bugger. Neither are that difficult.

Outdoorama Feb 27 - Mar 1, 2020
Suburban Collection Showplace
Grand River Ave (just west of Taft Rd)
Novi, MI

2020 SHOW HOURS

Thursday Feb 27: 1:00pm – 9:00pm
Friday Feb 28: 11:00am – 9:00pm
Saturday Feb 29: 10:00am – 8:00pm
Sunday March 1: 10:00am – 5:00pm
Spencer’s phone: (248)974-4235 During the show it is better to text me.

Honoring John Pinto

The Promoter

By Bruce D. Strachan

We, the Michigan Fly Fishing Club, have benefitted immensely from the life of John Pinto, deceased this past Friday, February 7, 2020. In so many ways, for all its years, John was the face, brains and heart of our club. Growing from informal nascent gatherings of friends, including Carl Glotzober, Bill Zeebler, Doug Swisher, Will Forman and Dick Enger, in the months following December 1969, John originated outstanding and lasting club events like the Huron River Trout Tune-up, the Bamboo Rod Revival, better known as today’s Midwest Fly Fishing Exposition, and Bone Fishing expeditions on Curtis Creek, Mayaguana, Bahamas. More than events, John established an example of leadership and enthusiasm that was impossible to resist or avoid. To say he was ‘in your face’ about his next great idea that would distinguish our club is an understatement.

John’s casting skills were exemplary and his teaching was generous to club members and visitors alike. Above all he favored Bone fishing. Many members accompanied him to the rustic, out of the way Bahamas trips at Mayaguana in search of at least one silver ghost, or as perhaps just a blistering hook-up. Among John’s last wishes was that others follow his lead to the thrills of the flats. He considered it “an honor to have been a Founding Member of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club and was pleased to see it flourishing.” His final expression was selfless and as ever a promotion:

“May the Sun and Wind Always Be at your Back!”

Fish On Mr. Pinto!

Members Fly Tying At The

Ultimate Fishing Show



Michigan Fly Fishing Club
PO BOX 530861
Livonia, MI 48153

2020

1978 ** 43 Years ** 2020

Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Presented by the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

FREE SEMINARS, CASTING & TYING DEMOS

March 14th and March 15th

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



Ed Engle Kiki Galvin Whitney Gould Devin Olsen Jason Randall

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

ADMISSION:
CASH ONLY AT
THE DOOR
ADULTS \$10
2 DAY PASS \$15
KIDS 16 & under FREE

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



FOR EXPO INFO and ON-LINE ADVANCE TICKETING: midwestflyfishingexpo.com
FOR CLUB INFO: mffc.org

