



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

April 2018

Casting With Hendericks

By Mike Matuszewski

Just in time for the start of the fishing season, our March 21 speaker swept down from Grayling to get us thinking about ways to improve our casts and fly presentation.

Mark Hendricks, who has spent the last 13 years as a guide and head instructor for Gates Au Sable Lodge, commanded the Clarenceville Middle School Gym with a whirlwind presentation of casting principles, tips and practice techniques. Hendricks is eminently qualified in the art of casting. He is certified as a casting instructor by Fly Fishers International (formerly the Federation of Fly Fishers), and in 2015 and 2016 he helped teach casting at the Joan Wulff Fly Fishing School in New York.

He said he wanted the meeting's attendees to leave with a better appreciation of just how easy it is to cast a fly line. "Many people work way too hard. If your arm gets tired or sore after casting, if your hand aches at the end of the day there's something wrong. Everyone wants to cast well but often aren't aware of the techniques that make it easy," he said.

Striving to make that connection is



the goal of Hendricks' instructional approach. His presentation was illustrated with relatable, sometimes offbeat analogies. Fly fishing terminology can be confusing, so he said he often explains things in layman's terms to which virtually everyone can relate.

He spoke about style versus substance in fly casting. "Your style can be any way you like – the rod straight up vertical, off the shoulder a bit or even sidearm," he said. "It doesn't matter – that's your style. Just like with a golf swing. Think about Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino – their swings all looked completely different from each other's but that was just their style. The substance, or basis, of what they were doing was identical. It's the same with fly casting. Your style can be any way you like or need. The substance of fly casting will be the same three things, regardless of style."

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MFFC Calendar



May 2, 2018

Activities Meeting

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

May 16, 2018

MFFC Annual Banquet

Speaker: Jason Randall

Topic: Where Trout Are
Italian American Center, 5:00 p.m.

June 20, 2018

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Catherine Sero

Topic: Reeling & Healing

Costic Center
Farmington Hills, 7:30 p.m.

July 18, 2018

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: John Gouker

Topic: Small Streams of west MI

Costic Center
Farmington Hills, 7:30 p.m.



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With that Hendricks embarked on a nearly 90-minute-long stream of advice and demonstrations:

#1: "Get the slack out of your fly line before you move the rod – either back or forward. You have to keep tension on the line throughout the cast, from picking up the line off the water, to the back cast, to the end of the forward cast. That's why you pause at the end of the back cast – to give the line time to straighten out and get rid of any slack so the rod loads as soon as you start the forward cast."

#2: "Start with your rod low to the water. Start slowly and smoothly accelerate to a sharp, abrupt stop. Not a slow, decelerating stop, but an abrupt stop. It's like driving a car. You can gradually roll to a stop at a stop sign. Or you slam on the brakes if a deer darts in front of your car. You want your stop during the back cast and the forward cast to be like you're slamming on the brakes."

What does that sharp stop look and feel like? "Like a fly swatter," Hendricks said. "You don't gently wave a fly swatter at the fly. You bring it forward and then smack it right at the end."

#3: "Move the tip of the rod in a straight path. The loop, or shape, of your fly line mimics the shape of the path the rod tip travels. If the rod tip goes back straight and comes forward straight," he said, "you'll have a nice, tight aerodynamic loop."

What followed in the wake of those three casting principles was a discussion issues and questions that most fly anglers have encountered.

Do you sometimes splash and spray water as you begin your back cast? "That

comes from the fly line itself. Smoothly lift your line off the water up to the line/leader connection then just flick it back. There's no weight with the leader, tippet and fly. Your line will come off the water clean, without the splash that sends trout scurrying for cover."

Does your hand quickly tire when fly fishing? You say you can't feel the momentary "pulse" of the rod that let's you know when it's time to begin the front cast. "A light, relaxed grip is essential," Hendricks said. "If you've got a death grip on the rod handle, you won't be able to feel it. Hold the rod like you're holding a pet canary. You should be able to cast all day long without getting tired."

What about when you're casting a heavy streamer? Many anglers will speed up their cast and try to put more muscle into it, Hendricks observed. "It seems counter-intuitive, but with a heavy, wet fly generally you need a slower, more-relaxed, smoother cast. Slow down and you'll feel a distinct tug when your rod is loaded on the back cast."

What about when the fly is actually on the water? "Casting and catching are both important but they're not the same thing. Just as important as your fly selection is the behavior of your fly," he said. "It has to ACT like a real fly. Trout are very suspicious of anything out of the ordinary. Say you go to a restaurant and order a cheeseburger. It looks great and you're hungry for a bite, but as you go to pick it up, it moves across the plate before you touch it. You're going to be deeply suspicious of that burger because that's not normal food behavior. Your food doesn't do that. If your fly is water skiing down or across the river it's very unlikely a trout will react to it positively. They won't recognize it as food and react accordingly because it's not acting like food. The best

thing that will happen is that trout will ignore it."

What's the cure for that waterskiing fly? "Mend," Hendricks said. "Everyone's heard the term, but in reality what you're doing is compensating for what the river is doing to your fly line. Learn to throw slack-line casts. When you stop the rod, after the loop passes the tip of the rod, bring the rod tip back toward you ever so slightly. Remember, a small movement with your hand translates to a big movement at the rod tip. That will provide enough slack to allow your fly to float naturally for a period of time." There are also other techniques, such as a wiggle cast, reach cast and a stack mending, he said.

Along the way, Hendricks also discussed a wide-ranging array of other topics and member questions — hauling (single and double), strategies to deal with wind, the difference between slow and fast rods, weight-forward versus double taper fly lines and roll casting. But even after nearly an hour and a half of non-stop presentation, the evening concluded with MFFC members crowded around, seeking even more insights and asking additional questions.





MFFFC Business

Meeting Minutes

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board Meeting January 17, 2018 at 7:30 pm

Rollcall

Present: Freeburg, Vanderhoof, Bocks, Nowicki, Strachan, Summers, Selinger, Oehring, Finstad
Absent: Bada
Guest: Jim Telinda

Approval of Minutes - Approved

Approval of Agenda - Approved

Officer Reports

President - Freeburg

Sarah Gross, MI History Center, offered flyers & discount coupons for showing of "Rivers that Changed the World." Club to facilitate distribution. Boy Scout Merit Badge event April 21. Eric Braden of MUCC requested name of MFFC representative to MUCC. MFFC does not have an official MUCC rep. Bock will attend the Jan 20 MUCC meeting as an observer. Steve Atkins, Bass Pro Promotions Coordinator contacted Freeburg regarding Bass Pro promos. Of potential interest to MFFC.

AI Bulszewicz NEEDS an assistant and backup to assist with EXPO hospitality and banquet. Hospitality and the EXPO banquet are vital contributors to the EXPO's success. The club also needs a member to learn the ropes of this endeavor that AI has so expertly mastered over the years. Craig Summers and Kathy Oehring joined the 2018 Election Committee. Chris Hunter committee head. Next club year, website charges will increase modestly. Website SSL Certification completed.

Vice President - Vanderhoof

At the West Michigan Fly Fishing show attendance was up from previous years. Luminaries included Dennis Potter and Jerry Reagan. Vanderhoof & Bill Shannon tied flies, promoted the Expo.

Treasurer - Nowicki

Certificate of Deposit is maturing & will be renewed.

Corresponding Secretary - Bocks

John Pinto canceled as February's guest speaker. Replacement being sought.

Hatch - Sybil Hunter

No updates at this time.

Website - Harry Briggs

Expo website card reads 2015 rather than 2018. Most content current.

Membership - Bada

xx members, xx members owe dues

Events & Outings

Expo advertising & promotion vehicles discussed: Facebook announcement, MI Out Of Doors TV spot,

MUCC show ad. Show card distribution discussed; less random method needed to improve reach.

New Business

None at this time.

Old Business

None at this time.

Visitor Comments: None at this time.

Roundtable

Meeting Adjourned: 9:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

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

Rollcall

Present: Freeburg, Bada, Bocks, Nowicki, Strachan, Summers, Selinger, Oehring, Finstad
Absent: Vanderhoof
Guest: Jim Telinda

Approval of Minutes - Approved

Approval of Agenda - Approved

Officer Reports

President - Freeburg

Michigan Out of Doors Ad running for 4 wks until end of Expo

Vice President - Vanderhoof

Absent

Treasurer - Nowicki

Equipment acct over budget by ~\$700 due to Expo cart fabrication
Overall expenses \$1600 under budget

Corresponding Secretary - Bocks

Banquet: Jason Randall is banquet speaker. Jason offered to run nymphing clinic at local stream on banquet day. Venue being investigated.
Speakers: June is open, July is Loop Outfitters. August is open.

Hatch - Sybil Hunter

No updates at this time.

Website - Harry Briggs

Expo website card reads 2015 rather than 2018. Most content current.

Membership - Bada

Currently 394 active members.

Events & Outings

Expo Report by Jim Telinda.

A booth for challenge Chapter of TU opened.
Royal Oak store opened and offering Douglas rods.
Project Healing Water requested booth support due to member with broken leg.
Jim negotiating for Macomb facility for next 3 yrs.

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2017 - 2018 Officers

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April Fly Of The Month

A Prize Pattern From England

Borcher's Drake

By Todd A. Schotts

This month's fly pattern, was never a hard decision as it is a staple in my fly box for Michigan's Trout Opener. The only thing I can say, is this is remarkably one of those flies that the longevity makes it "a why not have it in your box" fly pattern. This month's fly is the "Parachute/Post" version for the famed Borcher's Drake by Ernie Borcher.

Borcher's Drake has a long history in Michigan, especially around the Grayling area. The pattern was designed by Ernie Borcher (1903 – 1952) from Grayling. Ernie ran a canoe livery, was a river guide and a fly tier. One day while on a trip down the Au Sable, rumor has it Ernie caught a few dark Mayflies on the trip. With the fish, rising and taking these natural flies, he wanted to attempt to tie something similar at home. This pattern was tied like a traditional Cat-Skill style with hackle tip upright wings and worked so amazingly well that word spread (as it usually does when someone has an effective pattern). It wasn't long before Borcher's Drake became one of the best patterns for the Trout Opener. This fly was designed by Ernie back in the mid 1900's. Today, this pattern is still a staple in guides' and fly fishers' fly boxes.

With such old patterns, there always seems to have a wind knot or two of controversy tagging along. One wind knot with this pattern was regarding who

really designed it. The claims that are out there, that Ann (Anne) Schweigert developed the pattern, but according to Grayling's son, "History and Keeper of the Flies from Yesterdays" Jerry Regan, he mentions that she never claimed she designed it, yet labeled her with the title. The other wind knot was that the original pattern had condor for the body (which family members always claimed was turkey tail fibers). Whichever way it was tied, or who actually created the original version, this fly is totally amazing.

The Borcher's Drake represents a big list of early season Mayflies when tied in different sizes as Hendrickson's, Mahoganies, March Browns, Black Quills, Sulphurs, & Isonychias. Even though these insects' bodies vary slightly in difference of size and color, this pattern does a great job intimidating these amazing Mayflies. As mentioned earlier, the original pattern had "Hackle Tip" wings that were tied upright. The body had three or four turkey tail fibers wrapped around the hook. One thing to make sure, to get the perfect body, don't twist the turkey fibers when wrapping. I like putting Zap-A-Gap on the hook shank and then wrapping the turkey fibers around the hook shank. This will help to keep the body more secure and last longer. With the tail fibers, they are tied in long, to represent the spent insects. But as time changes, the "Parachute/Post" version of this fly has become really popular. With this version, the fly is easier to see for the fly fishers, and still gives that silhouette of wings. There are a lot of materials that you can use for this, such as: white or dun deer body hair, turkey flats, Hi-Vis, calf tail, or Poly Yarn. I prefer turkey flats or Poly Yarn for doing post patterns. If you are unfamiliar or nervous about tying Parachute's/Post, check out the DVD,

Borcher's Drake



HOOK: Dry size 10-20

THREAD: Black or brown 8/0 or 70 Denier

TAIL: 3 strands of Moose Mane

WING: Dun or white: turkey flats, Poly Yarn, Hi-Vis, calf tail, or deer body hair

BODY: 3 or 4 turkey quill wrapped around the hook shank

HACKLE: Grizzly of brown mixed

"Durable Parachutes with Julie Nelson; your fears of unfamiliarity will be no more.

This is a good all around pattern that passes as a great replication of the many Mayflies as I mentioned. When fishing it, do the normal dry fly type of fishing, but remember not to have the fly skating across the water, as that will not look very natural. Try to get natural drifts, and do a few mends in the line on your drift to help to avoid the "Water Skating Borcher's."

If you want to have a fly that will compete against Mother Nature's natural Mayflies for end of April, going into June, plus fool those wary river inhabitants, then get your vice out and start slinging those bobbins. I hope everyone has a great Trout Opener, and until next month Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.

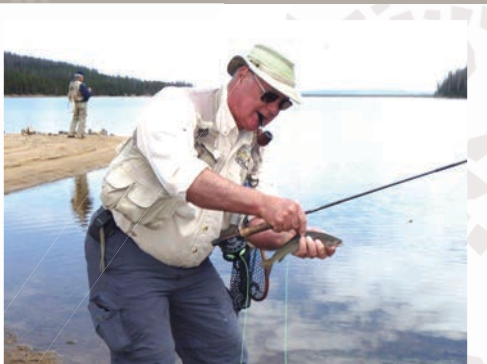


April Tyer Of The Month

Featured Member Tyer

Bring On The Fish!

Terry Herron



I have been tying for 25-30 years and have been a member of MFFC for 18 yrs. Currently I am co-chair of the youth tying booth at the rod show with Dave Begley and have been leading all of the club schools in the tying area for many years.

This pattern of the Hendrickson is one that I have been tying every year at the new members outing for newbies to try out, as it is one of the goto Mayflies for the May outing. The second variation is a great Dun or spinner pattern.

See you at the tying table in April!

MFFC Annual

Banquet

Wednesday May 16, 2018
Tickets still available and still only \$40
Doors Open @ 5:30 PM
Dinner Served @ 7:00 PM
See Kathy Oehring @ Meetings
or e-mail at oehrk@icloud.com

Hendrickson



Hendrickson Parachute

Recipe

- Hook: Dry size 12-14
- Tail: Dun hackle
- Body: Hendrickson pink or rusty brown
- Wing: Hi-vis or calf body hair
- Hackle: Dun
- Thorax: Dubbing

Tying Instructions

1. Attach the thread and form a thread bump at the bend
2. (optional) Dub a yellow egg sack to replace the thread bump
3. Tie in the tail
4. Tie in the biot and wrap it forward
5. Tie in the hi-vis in the middle and make a few consolidating wraps
6. Tie in the hackle and post it with the hi-vis
7. Dub the thorax
8. Wrap the hackle and tie off
9. Whip finish

A Note Of Special Recognition

Mike Harrington

A special thanks to Mike Harrington for helping find students for the Public School. Mike was able to help us find *eight* students in the last week to help fill up our school and make it a success!



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Expo website will be updated to 2019 immediately after 2018 show.
Expo cards require a non-PO address & USPS form to get bulk mailing rates.
New Member's Outing scheduled May 9-11, 2018.

New Business

Relocation of Summer meetings. Bocks suggested Livonia Senior Center at 5 Mile & Farmington. Facilities adequate, only marginal financial gain.

Project Healing Waters. Rich LoBianco can renew activity at the VA. BOD agreed to investigate renewal of volunteer effort at VA with previous MFFC participants.
MUCC Convention, June 22-24, 2018.
Convention will discuss MUCC proposals & policies. April 12 MUCC election.

Old Business

Clarenceville Storage Room is overcrowded & unorganized.

Visitor Comments: see above

Meeting Adjourned: 9:01 pm



Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Fun-guy

Al The Hackleman

It Is Almost Time For Opening Day

The time has come to start planning our Opening Day Fishing, social and fishing celebration. It is only a few days now until the normal Michigan Trout Season begins, and I am getting things prepared for the fun. Between cleaning fly lines, and tying some new fly patterns to use and organizing fly boxes and packs, the excitement of another trout season is making it tough to sleep. A new fishing license is needed, but that's another part of the excitement.

As we have done for the past 17 years, we will once again meet at Gates AuSable Lodge, in the Board Room, about 9 am on the last Saturday of April. We all share some fishing memories, maybe meet a new fishing buddy, trade secret spots for future fishing fun, and eat and drink the morning away. It's a really nice way to start the season. Right now I sit and look out the front window of our home at the Manistee River and see a lot of snow and wind blowing even more snow around the trees. So maybe this year we will get a chance to fish the first day of the season in chilly temperatures. Or maybe we will luck out and this cold weather will move out and let us have Hendrickson flies on the water. Whatever happens, IT IS GOING TO BE OPENING DAY. And that means fun for the trout fishing crowd. Please remember

the only rule for our Opening Day festivities is: NO PARKING at Gates Lodge. Please park at the Stephan Bridge canoe access site and walk the short distance to the Board Room.

As we have done before, we will also take some time to remember some fishing buddies that are no longer fishing with us. That part of the Opening Day festivities, while not really being festive, is also part of the special time we all share as fly fishers. We have all had mentors, and I am sure most of us act as mentors also. That part of fly fishing is really one of the best aspects of our sport and our club. We love to share the fun and excitement with others and are always looking for a new recruit. Between sharing our club activities with new friends, and getting the chance to share some of the better parts of our state with friends, we get the chance to share our love of the clean trout streams and we enjoy and make positive impacts on future generations so they can enjoy the same love of nature we share. And in that process we hope to help preserve the places we love and respect, because without that love and respect, the areas we enjoy so much will go the way of the Grayling fish. So part of the sport is helping new folks appreciate the streams and work to keep them clean and available for future fishers. It's sort of like that old saying, "Leave it better for the next generation."

The weekend of Opening Day really starts Friday afternoon with lunch at the Old AuSable Fly Shop right in greater downtown Grayling. After that super beginning, we move over to Spike's Keg of Nails for our dinner reservations at about 5PM. We are the only group that is

allowed reservations at Spike's, and again that is because we are good folks that are friendly, decent and generous. Let's keep that reputation by practicing those good traits again this year. There are many things to do after dinner, including a once a year gathering at the Grayling Library to learn about the trout fishing history of this wonderful little northern Michigan town.

So clean those fly lines, get those fly boxes ready, and make your plans to start the new Trout Season off with a wonderful start.

I look forward to greeting all of you again this year.

Now get packing.

Welcome

New Members

A big MFFC welcome to this month's new members: John & Gene Williams of Grayling; Robert Deputat of Shelby Twp.; John Germain of Livonia; Nicholas & Dan Ryan of Plymouth; and Alex Lafkas of Traverse City!

March's new members include: Christopher Baker of Brighton; Chad Brown of Traverse City; Trevor Castleman of Novi; Wally Crapps of South Lyon; Richard DePunt of Warren; Chris Duvall of Sterling Heights; Dennis Forsberg of Okemos; Ray Kelley of Ann Arbor; Tori Price of Ann Arbor; Raul Mendez of Richmond; Gene Michaelson of Novi; Christina Pellerano of Ann Arbor; Art Preiksa of Akron, OH; Kyle Preiksa of Farmington Hills; Rebecca Roszak of Grayling; Patrick Shaughnessy of Farmington Hills; Julie Strachan of Astoria, NY; Scott Terzich of Northville; and Glenn Weier of Waterford.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events

Michigan Fly Fishing Club's

Midwest Expo



Mark Hendericks - FFI Casting Instructor

What's your stock phrase?

"It's gotta act like food."

Who is your favorite musician?

"The Blues. I'm a Blues dawg."

What question are you sick of being asked?

"None of them. They are asking you because they want to be good. And I want them to be good."

Needed

Volunteer

Al Bulsiewicz NEEDS an assistant and backup to assist with the EXPO hospitality and banquet. Hospitality and the EXPO banquet are vital contributors to the EXPO's success. The club also needs a member to learn the ropes of this endeavor. Thank you Al for such an expertly mastered event over the years.

John Pinto's

Sand In My Shoe

There I was...between 1985 and 1994 Ronnie and I would visit Harbour Island in the Bahamas for ten days each year. We would book our trip to coincide with the American Fourth of July and Bahamian Independence Day, July 10th. Brett King, owner of the Coral Sands Hotel and a former Hollywood actor (he played Ernie in the movie *Flying Leathernecks* with John Wayne) would do a pretty big fireworks display on the beach in front of the hotel. After becoming a "regular" at the hotel Brett recruited me to be part of the pyrotechnic team and I relived my childhood fantasy by lighting off many large, colorful rockets and assorted fireworks.

Bahamian Independence Day was just as good with lots of "out island" food all day long and with everybody gathering at the fig tree on the waterfront to enjoy junkanoo music and dancing. I still marvel at how those island women would really "work it" to the tropical beat and never break a sweat.

Of course, during those ten-day stays, three of the days were devoted to fishing with Bonefish Joe. Today every young Bahamian who owns a skiff of any kind becomes a bonefish guide overnight and assumes the prefix title of "*Bonefish*." There are more Bonefish Hymies, Bonefish Joshs and Bonefish Todds scattered among the islands than I dare to count. It wasn't always that way. You didn't just put the *Bonefish* prefix in front of your name, but rather earned the title by pushing clients around in

your boat for twenty years. When I started, there were still some of the great, ole Bahamian guides working throughout the islands.

Bonefish Rudy Buchanan from Bimini was the first guide of prominence and is remembered as being the personal guide for Johnny Morris, owner of Bass Pro Shop. After his death, Mr. Morris purchased Rudy's 16-foot wooden skiff and moved it to the Bass Pro Shop store in Springfield, Missouri. It now serves as the salad bar in the restaurant in the store. Ironically, customers in the store are sitting at an almost iconic bonefishing relic from the Bahamas while eating fried catfish and hush puppies.

Bonefish Tracy Dames followed right after Rudy and worked the flats around Great Exuma. Tracy loved guiding, and did so up to his 92nd birthday when he died in his boat while poling one of his clients. I fished one time with Tracy, and later on with his grandsons J.J. and Kendall Dames. They both admitted they'd never catch as many bonefish "as granddaddy did!"

Harbour Island was blessed to have two of the great old guides – Bonefish Stanley Johnson and Bonefish Joe Cleare. Oddly enough, each had his own set of clients and if you fished with Joe, you did not fish with Stanley. And vice versa. That is just the way it was. I would talk with Stanley at the dock while I was waiting for Joe to arrive and threatened to fish with him. Sadly, we ran out of time and I never got the chance.

As the years moved on, Joe's son Stuart married Stanley's daughter Melinda. They had a son named Samson who just happened to have had two of the most famous Bahamian bonefish guides as his grandfathers. I often wondered if there is a Bonefish Samson working the flats of Harbour Island...I hope so.



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