

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

April 2019

The Four Flies You Need

By Sybil Hunter

"We are about a mile of water below Gates," said Dennis Potter of Riverhouse Fly Co, MFFC's March speaker giving background, "I'm a fly designer, feather merchant, and fly tyer. I'm a material junkie. I'm a hackle junkie. I consider myself primarily a fly tying teacher.

"The pattern means nothing in fly tying without technique. Can it be fast? Yes, but it's all about precision."

That being said, "You need to know cut thread and dropped materials are part of the demonstration."

"If I could have four flies and could only be fishing with those flies, these would be the flies:" (*Notes below and material list following.*)

#1 The Opal and Elk Caddis: There are reflective qualities in Opal Tinsel that are beneficial when fishing for caddis on every size hook.

"I tie these in 12, 14, 16, 18. You need spun thread, 70 denier, clear or white." It is hard on your scissors and slippery, Potter warned. "A third of the hook shank of flies like Adam's should be hackle."

"Give the stacker two or three big
whacks, then a couple of little taps to get
it down." "Gel thread is the only thread
strong enough to hold that hair."



"Don't use glue. People who glue small dry flies do it because they tie bad dry flies." Do not use glue on any fly said Potter. "Fish have 300+ tasting sensors. Don't use glue. Fish can taste the glue and taste the dye."

#2 The Fathead Beetle: "There are more species of beetles than any other insect. You would think they would be in the water...in all my fishing...I've only seen two floating. The fish aren't eating them as beetles, they are eating them as the shape. It's got wings, round rubber legs for movement and it's got color to see it."

"You cannot do this kind of fly with hard, slick foam because the foam is going to break. Use 8 to 10 hurl. Potter suggested taking the EP fibers, folding

MFFC Calendar



May 15, 2019
MFFC Banquet
Speaker: Phil Rowley
Topic: Fly Fishing Argentina
Italian American Center
Livonia, 5:30 p.m.

June 12, 2019 International Fly Fishing Film Festival Showing VisTaTek Center Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

July 10, 2019 Speaker Meeting TBD VisTaTek Center Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

August 14, 2019 Speaker Meeting Erin Dreelin Of MSU Fisheries & Wildlife VisTaTek Center Livonia, 7:30 p.m.



them in half, then cutting them in two-voila! Two matching lengths. Matching lengths are important. "Tie these in hot fluorescent orange or hot fluorescent pink. It has to be fluorescent. The other colors fluoresce out in the light."

#3 The Aurora Nymph: This used to be the rubber leg lightening bug. "I have caught every species of fish on this bead head fly. Every fish we landed took the rubber legs fly over the feather fly.

"I use tungsten beads exclusively."
They weigh more than brass or lead.
"That tungsten bead will get me more time on the bottom. It gets in and down in the water faster. I'm getting away from shiny beads."

"This is one of those flies that is more impressionistic." Tie them in size 12's, 16's, and 14's.

"This is the pimp of nymphs," said Potter. "By far, the number one confidence bead head I've ever fished."

#4 "Peacock Bugger: "We all have an anal retentive techno weenie friend who has access to all kinds of weird tanks and equipment," this is how Potter's fourth fly was created. Potter's design was "pulled through one of the best tanks with all kinds of spiky readings so that tells me the fish can hear it and, or feel it." From this, the Peacock Bugger was perfected.

"I use Tiemko 93 and 95, 4X long, 2X heavy Limerik bend hooks, the strongest bend you can have." Then there is, "The all important hackle," according to Potter. "That's the key — this fuzzy part. I want lots of hackle in here. Everybody's got feathers with all this fat fuzzy crap on them."

"This is the greatest Smallmouth fly. This is noisy stuff."

"People strip too fast," said Potter, "You have to remember there are very few Barracuda in Michigan."

POTTER'S OFFICIAL MATERIALS LIST

Opal & Elk Caddis

Hook: Dry Fly, #12 -#18

Thread: 70 denier GSP (gel spun) clear or

white

Wire: Fine Gold

Abdomen: Opal Tinsel, Medium

Hackle: Any light color - dun, grizzly etc

Head/Wing: - Nature's Spirit Select Cow Elk
(buy a 6X6 piece and get it over with)

Fathead Beetle

Hook: TMC 9300, 1X heavy dry fly #12

Thread: 8/0 black

Body: Open Cell Fly Foam - 1 1/2 mm / 1/8

inch - black

Under Body: Peacock **Wings**: EP Fibers Slate

Legs: Small Round Rubber Legs - black **Indicator**: Fluorescent Hot Orange or Hot

Pink Egg Yarn

Aurora Nymph

Hook: TMC 2487 Scud Hook #12-#16

Bead: Tungsten

Thread: 8/0 Olive or Brown

Legs and Tails: Mini Round Rubber Legs-

black

Abdomen: Opal Tinsel, Medium **Wing Case**: Opal Tinsel, Large

Thorax: Peacock

Peacock Bugger

Hook: TMC 9395, 4XL 2X Heavy, Straight

Eye: #6-#10 Thread: 6/0 Black Weight: .020 lead

Tail: Marabou Blood Feather, Black Hackle: Metz #2 Grizzly Saddle, dyed black Body: Peacock (wrap peacock around the

thread to reinforce)

Flash: A few strands of contrasting color

material, Krystal Hair etc.

Collar: The oversoft, fluffy barbs at the base

of the feather, folded and wrapped

Dennis Potter's

Tyed Flies











MFFC Business



Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board Meeting March 13, 2019

Rollcall

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

Approval of Minutes - Approved. **Approval of Agenda** - Approved.

Officer Reports

President - VanderhoofCommented on great Expo.

Vice President - Strachan

Commented on Arkansas trip. All was great.

Treasurer - Nowicki

Report accepted.

A current summary of the Expo financials was distributed. Expo was best ever.

Nowicki will have 2020 budget proposal at April BOD meeting. Any changes to this year's budget numbers should be provided to Dave before the next meeting.

Corresponding Secretary - Hunter

Hatch: on schedule

Venue for IF4 is up in the air due to Costic Center giving our room to another party. Hunter has contacted the Vis Ta Teck Center at Schoolcraft College. July & August meetings will currently be held at the Livonia Senior Center.

Membership - Bada

Currently 428 active members. We gained 25 new members from the Expo.

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Events & Outings

Expo Summers mentioned all help he and his team received. He also reported that Bill Keough has donated a big bag of fly tying materials.

A Thank You suggested to be sent to Amy Telinda for helping us access data as a tribute to her father, per Bada.

Banquet - Kathy mentioned she will start to sell tickets for the banquet at the next membership meeting. The price remains \$40.

Opening Day outing is full, plus people waiting.

New Business

Bruce's Proposal to form an "Expo" like committee to address new member growth, maintenance, social media, planning, and other related issues. The consensus of the board was that this is a good idea. It was agreed to await the input from the Expo committee and then proceed with this proposal.

Outing Conflict between the Club Picnic and the Family Outing dates. It was decided to continue with

Old Business

the published dates.

Election Nominees list distributed, along with short announcement to be publishing in Constant Contact and Hatch.

Visitor Comments: None.

Roundtable

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:15 p.m.

Official Notice Of

Banquet Tix

Banquet tickets are available at the April 17 and May 1 meetings.

Banquet date: May 15, 2019

Venue: Italian American Club, Livonia Cost: Dinner Ticket - Still just \$40 Choose: Steak, chicken, salmon, vegetarian or gluten free

Lunch & Tying with Phil Rowley:

Fly Tying with Phil - with book - \$40

Fly Tying with Phil - with book and dvd - \$50.00 - *new item*

Fly Tying with Phil - without book or dvd

Lunch: Pizza and salad (included)

12:00 - Lunch

1:00 - Tying with Phil Rowley 3:00 - Italian American Club closes

5:30 - Doors open 7:00 - Dinner

Contact: Katherine Oehring oehrk@icloud.com 734-692-0569



2018 - 2019 Officers

President: Spencer Vanderhoof president@mffc.org

Vice President:
Bruce Strachan
bruceds0402@gmail.com

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MFFC Banquet: Phil MangaRowley - May 15, 2019





Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Guy

Al The Hackleman

Opening Day Thoughts

I am sitting here and thinking about a rather big event that is happening in less then 3 weeks. Opening Day of Michigan Trout Season will be upon us very soon and my mind is racing with thoughts about past and present Opening Day stuff. I must note that there is still snow on the ground here. It's melting and that's a good thing, but I expect snow in the woods for opening day this year. Today we took a drive around and visited some of the popular access sites. We visited some spots on the South Branch and the Mainstream. We even found some folks fishing today and had some nice conversations with the folks we saw at the river. It was a nice warm, partly sunny day.

During the past winter, Joyce and I both spent time looking at fly boxes and making notes about what flies we needed to fill the gaps. We used our notes to sort of focus our winter fly tying activities to what was needed to fill the holes and maybe try some new patterns to expand our chances to catch some fish. Now those activities are almost complete. There are still some flies that need to be tied and still some new patterns that we want to try this season, but most of the gaps are filled, and that brings us happiness. A winter well spent.

I like to tie my own leaders. In the past I have tried some store bought leaders and they worked fine, but I seem to be more of a hands on kind of guy...so I have evolved some leaders that work, not only here in Michigan, but also work fine out west on the bigger, windier, rivers. My first ever hand tied leaders were based on a formula by MFFC member John Long. From there I discovered: celebration. Thinking back over that time I

a leader formula from Gary Borger. That seemed to work fine and used fewer knots than the John Long formula. I now tie leaders in lengths from 5 feet long to 10 feet long. I now carry my leaders in a "Leader Wallet" that seems like something out of the '50's. But they work for me and I enjoy the time spent making them. While I tie these leaders I can think about all the fishing of the previous season and all the fish I plan to catch in the next season. During the past winter I tied some new leaders and enjoyed that time too.

Recently Joyce has been cleaning and stretching our fly lines. This is another of the pre-opening day activities that brings great memories of times past and hopeful plans for the coming season. A funny note about cleaning fly lines came back from the memories of winter stuff. Back a few years, maybe more than a few, when I had about 3 fly reels, I used to unwind the fly line from the reel and hang it in big coils for the winter. This kept the fly line from getting those awful memory coils during the long winter. So when I was rigging up on Opening Day my fly line was pretty smooth and straight and the line cast well. So now Joyce cleans our lines, from far more than 3 fly reels, and stretches the lines some to get those memory coils out. Now another of our pre-opening day activities is complete. And our fly lines are ready for some fun and casting perfection.

Now I must say our winter was busy and we had some times when we really thought that we would not get all of our planned activities done in time. But its less than 3 weeks till opening day and we are mostly complete. We feel a bit good about this fact.

The time coming up to Opening Day also brings some memories of times gone bye. This year will be the 19th year of The Michigan Fly Fishing Club Opening Day Celebration. I admit I have a hard time believing that its been 19 YEARS of our club have very mixed emotions about this event. I have completely loved the time shared with friends and club members during that special day. I have enjoyed the shared conversations and memories. The wonderful group that shows up and shares that day is really a great thing about our club and its members. We get together and share a very special day with smiles and sometimes some tears. But the shared experience is really what makes it so special. During the 19 years we have lost some remarkable folks, but we have also found some new friends and fishing buddies. For me that is the best thing about both our club and this special day.

One thing that always makes me think of how wonderful our group is, was an experience during the first Midwest Fly Fishing Expo I ever worked at. During the day my friend Mike Moreau and I stopped by an artists booth a few times. We both were drawn to a couple of prints that he had for sale. On Sunday afternoon we stopped by one more time. He talked with us about the prints and noted that we had both looked at them numerous times. We did not have enough cash left to purchase these prints but he mentioned "I have been doing this for about 10 years and have NEVER had a fly fisher stiff me on a purchase. Fly fishers are not that kind of person. So take the prints and send me a check when you can." Of course we both sent him a check that week. But the important comment was that part about "Fly fishers are not that kind of person." That statement is really the basis of how our club is so darn good. We are indeed good people and don't stiff folks or hurt them. And every person we think about on Opening Day was one of those good folks. So are our new friends and fishing buddies.

I hope all your winter goals is complete, because Opening Day is just a few days away. So get ready and be prepared to have some fun and share some wonderful stories.



April Fly Of The Month Happy 50th Fly!

FrankenFly's

Bluegill Belly Bean

By Todd A.Schotts

Before I get too far into this month's fly, I would like to thank our Editor, Sybil Hunter, for giving me the chance and letting me be able to write this column for the club. This month's write up will be my "50th Fly of the Month." It seems like yesterday was the very first "Fly of the Month." How time and articles fly. I would really like to give a big thank you to everyone that reads this column, this has been really great and many more flies are yet to be presented.

Now back to this month's fly of the month. With the upcoming season of fishing, the Panfish will be ever so present in lakes and rivers, bedding in the earlier spring, even in the drop-offs as the temperatures start to warm. So this month's fly is from a real good friend of mine, Paul J. Beel, and is his "Bluegill Belly Bean."

The stream side notes on Paul: He hails from Indiana; he is owner, writer, and fly tier of FrankenFly, a website on the art of fly tying and fly tying business. In Paul specializes in Modern Streamers, Warmwater Flies, and Classic Michigan Dry Flies. Funny thing, about nine years ago or so, I got a call from the esteemed Jerry Regan and he mentioned a gentleman from Indiana was going to be calling me regarding tying questions. To condense this story, when Paul contacted me, he wanted to learn the techniques for some of my Warm Water Flies. Then to my surprise, he asked me to check out his new blog/website. I was in total awe of what he was doing for the art of fly tying. I know from his tying, he has amazing patterns on the market with some cool names to go along with them. Things like the "Pumpkinseed of Doom," "Grandpa's Rooster," "Death Ray," "Thunder Mutts," and "Mama's Cornbread," are just a few of his patterns. Along with all he has done fly tying, he branched out to tying materials as FrankenDub

Monster and FrankenDub Nymph, and his new Werewolf Hair. I spoke to Paul about this article, when I asked him what his desire was getting into the tying arena he said he, "...wanted to follow in my grandfather's footsteps as a fly tier." Paul is an Orvis Fly Designer, and on the Pro Team for HMH Vises, FishPond, Partridge of Redditch, Deer Creek, plus is fellow TFO Pro Team member.

One question I like asking fly designers is,

"What was your inspiration or insight for creating
the fly?" Paul mentioned he wasn't really excited
about the other flies he was seeing being used for
Bluegills under the surface. He said he has seen
people using pheasant tails or soft hackles, but his
idea was to have a fly that actually targeted panfish.
So in April of 2017, sitting at his vise, he knew he
wanted rubber legs incorporated into his design, and
after some bobbin slinging, his vision came to life.
The only problem wa that the first one was not
weighted correctly, so he said it spun around like
crazy while he fished. After some adjustments, his
final product was designed — a pattern that the
tenacious panfish would attack after the spawn out.

When tying this pattern, make sure you use the Double Pupil Lead Eyes, as they will help to add definition to your fly. Tie the eyes on top of the hook shank, this will help your hook point to ride up. This means less snagging your fly on any debris in the water. Once you get the eyes in place with your thread, take some glue like Zap-A-Gap to help hold the eyes in position. The next step is tying in the two strands of Krystal Flash. When you tie them · in, fold over the flash to double your flash of the back of the fly. S secure them in again. This will help keep the pesky lake inhabitants from removing your flash material. Once you get the Estaz tied in, the next step is the rubber legs. Make sure once they are tied in, the legs are aiming towards the back of fly. If you want to follow along, watching this fly tied, go to YouTube to see the Bluegill Belly Bean by Tim Flagler of Tightline Video.

When fishing the Bluegill Belly Bean, Paul mentions you can fish this fly in a couple of different ways. You can strip/retrieve or do a jigging type movement. Use the jigging type action for this fly by lifting up and down in the drop offs; it puts the arsenal into the fishes kitchen sink. Another way is to strip/retrieve it in. Depending on the fish and weather, it could be a fast stripping or a

Bluegill Belly Bean



HOOK: Size 6 Daiichi 4640 (don't let the size fool you, it is more like a 10)

TAIL: 1 micro rubber leg & 2 strands of Krystal Flash

BACK BODY: Petite Glissen Gloss Estaz or plain Estaz or UV Estaz

BETWEEN BACK & FRONT

BODY: 2 micro rubber legs on each side

FRONT BODY: FrankenDUB

Nymph Dubbing

EYES: X-small Double Pupil Dumbell Lead Eyes

slow stripping method. Paul mentioned he likes a gradual strip/retrieve, making six or eight inch strips. Just make sure you keep it steady. Even though his fly was designed for Bluegills and panfish, it has caught more than just those aggressive little lake fighters. The other species this amazing fly has caught include: Carp, Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Pink Salmon, Oscars, and Mayan Cichlids. Now that is an impressive list!

So if you want to relive your childhood memories catching Bluegills and panfish off the drop offs, or going after some other predator, start slinging those bobbins and get those Bluegill Belly Beans ready for action. Until next month, Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.



April Tyer Of The Month

Dan Walker's

3 Bangers

Nothing gets me as excited about fly fishing as much as getting game fish to take fly rod lures on the surface. This version of everyone's favorite saltwater popper comes from Bob Popovick. If your name is Bob Popovick, you are probably destined to create the world's greatest salt water popper even if you weren't already the greatest innovator of saltwater fly designs. The white or chartreuse marabou version has worked well on Lake Saint Clair and Grand River Bass. It is a good flashy minnow representation that will work in more open water, for more minnow focused fish where other generic creature popper patterns fall short. Only the slender white bucktail version worked for Stripers on Cape Cod. Probably black will have its time and place.

I will be bringing materials for you to tie maybe five poppers. If you can bring any of the following it would be helpful:

Straight eye hooks, #2 to 2/0 White or Chartreuse Thread. (210 or 140 dernier)

White Marabou

White Bucktail

I won't providing Ice Dub or Flashabou to take home so you may want

to concentrate on tying your tail assemblies at the meeting and do the gluing at home.

An important tool is a stout needle-like tool mounted in a handle. A lengthwise hole is pierced just above the bottom edge of the cylinder (straight is better). After the tail assembly is tied, a somewhat thick:

thread base is wrapped along the length of the hook. Some glue is put into the hole in the cylinder with a tooth pick and more is put on the hook's thread base. The cylinder is slid over the hook shank, with lots of twisting, back up against the tail assembly. The hook eye should be just outside the front of the cylinder. Dab up any surplus glue with toothpicks as needed.

The fly tying part is easy and the gluing is very easily done with most any type of glue.

Original Bob's Banger

HOOK: long shank salt water 34007

TAIL: long white bucktail

BODY: Large Pearl Flash Chenille, for

rear 1/3 shank

FLASH: Flashabou on both sides of

body and tail

HEAD: foam cylinder cut to cover front 2/3 of hook; Silver Prism Tape is wrapped around the foam cylinder. Eyes are stuck on or painted on the the prism tape.

Slim Bucktail Bobish Banger

HOOK: Medium Shank Predator, VMC 7250BN 2/0 shown, 1/0 to 6/0 possible

Silver, Pearl or Mirage Opal Flashabou TAIL: bucktail 3X shank or synthetic fibers 5X shank for Musky versions

> **BODY:** cut to 4/5 shank length from cylinder of diameter 1/2 hook gap Ice Dub Clump. Same side Flashabou. Same Prism Tape Wrap. Same Eye(s), Gil Strip(s). Same 1 or 2 of each works well



Short Marabou Banger

HOOK: any short shank straight eye, Eagle Claw 253N 1/0 & 54SS 2/0 shown

THREAD: 210 or 140 white or

chartreuse

TAIL: generous marabou 3X shank length dubbing clump of Ice Dub Pearl, 1 or 2 clumps are center tied atop the tie in point of the tail. Flash Pearl or Mirage Opal with some silver, tied on both sides of the dubbing clump to reach just past the tail tips.

BODY: a foam cylinder slightly narrower than the hook gap is cut at 90 degrees to just reach the place where you are going to tie in the tail and Ice Dub clump.

EYES: eye(s) can be stick on or painted, a gill stipe or two is good, a body wrap of prism tap is optional



Michigan Fly Fishing Club Club Events



John Pinto

Saltwater Committee

I am sitting here at my computer looking into my back yard at freshly fallen three inches of snow. Normally I would be thinking ahead to two more months of chasing bonefish at Mayaguana and leading first-time and wannabe fly anglers in pursuit of their first bonefish. My battle with prostate cancer has forced me and the salt water committee to cut short the season at Mayaguana this year, but I begin a new treatment in two days and am committed to wading the flats of Mayaguana again beginning in September with three MFFC members in tow. The 2018-19 Season was enjoyable. It was the season of "big fish" as we finally fooled those "big singles" who never look at a fly, and I was geeked to land a nine pound fish. MFFC member Dave Fisher landed an eight pound bonefish and his first permit. The January group, in spite of 2020 losing almost three days of fishing to 30 MPH winds, saw how big the Mayaguana bonefish truly are as they ran into two large schools at Abraham's Bay. Ten to twelve pound fish were seen simply by paddling the canoes back to the landing at Curtis Creek.

One of the most enjoyable moments was "first-light" fishing with Renee Gall. Renee is a very good fly angler and brought a lot of passion to Mayaguana. She sees fish very well and is a good

caster. I got her to within twenty feet of some very large tailing bonefish. She did everything correctly but bonefish make the rules and it just wasn't her time, although she did hook a fish. She will be back. The new season starts the week of September 6 with one member already signed up. Groups are now limited to three members and a trail boss. I have poured through the tide chart for the Bahamas and am listing the weeks for the 2019-20 season. Cost remains at \$1995.00 per angler which includes 6-1/2 days of guided fishing, 7 nights lodging (double occupancy), all meals, transportation to/ from the fishing areas and use of the canoes and related equipment.

2019

SEPTEMBER, FRIDAY: 09/06/19 SEPTEMBER, FRIDAY: 09/20/19 OCTOBER, FRIDAY: 10/04/19 OCTOBER, FRIDAY: 10/25/19 NOVEMBER, FRIDAY: 11/08/19 NOVEMBER, FRIDAY: 11/22/19 DECEMBER, FRIDAY: 12/06/19

JANUARY, FRIDAY: 01/03/20 JANUARY, FRIDAY: 01/17/20 JANUARY, FRIDAY: 01/31/20 FEBRUARY, FRIDAY: 02/14/20 FEBRUARY, FRIDAY: 02/28/20 MARCH, FRIDAY: 03/13/20 MARCH, FRIDAY: 03/27/20 APRIL, FRIDAY: 04/10/20 APRIL, FRIDAY: 04/24/20

May the Sun and the Wind Always be at your Back!

MFFC Raffle

Winning!





2019 Youth School

Saturday, May 4, 2019 - from 10am to 4pm at the MSU Tollgate Education Center

28115 Meadowbrook Rd, Novi, MI (NW corner 12 Mile & Meadowbrook Rd) for Youth, ages 7-16, sponsored by a "dues-paid" MFFC member. (This is not a public school. It is intended as a member benefit for close relatives/acquaintances.) For more info or to sign-up a youth, please contact:

Len Dixon at 248-921-1494 or lendixon@comcast.net

The deadline to sign-up is Wednesday, April 24, 2019.



Please remember to bring any gently used Fly Fishing Shirts to the next meeting.

The donated shirts will be collected by Ray Geitka to be boxed and mailed to "Reeling & Healing Midwest" to be used by women battling, surviving, or living with cancer for the group's fly fishing wellness retreats. Reeling & Healing Midwest is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

The shirts should be clean, free of stains or tears, long or short sleeved, and can be plain or well.

The shirts should be clean, free of stains or tears, long or short sleeved, and can be plain or with names or logos on them. Old, no longer used MFFC Expo shirts are perfect.

Michigan Fly Fishing Club PO BOX 530861 Livonia, MI 48153