



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

May 2018

Arkansas Fishing Fun

By Mike Matuszewski

MFFC welcomed Alex Lafkas to the April speaker meeting. He spoke about fishing the White and Norfolk Rivers in Arkansas. The White River has 30 miles of trout stream, and the Norfolk about four. There are mainly Browns and Rainbows in those rivers.

“The best casters catch the most fish,” said Alex Lafkas. “High water is much more difficult. The better the fisher, the better the fishing in deep water...it’s hard, but that’s when you catch the best fish.”

According to Lafkas, the Norfolk is a bit slower fishing, “Something has changed. It used to be the premier river...but then there was development.” The fish now move to the Norfolk to spawn then peel off to other waters. “The flow from the dam has changed.”

The main dam has eight generators, one is broken. “In one day the river changes seven vertical feet and then back down to zero,” said Lafkas. “It was built with four generators...those fish are moving! They more time you spend on the river, the more you see that.”

The dam keeps the river at pretty stable water temperatures year around, about 50 degrees.



“I wouldn’t go without a boat,” said Lafkas. “The flows are inconsistent and the chunk rock and limestone are slick.

Take a drift boat. You can get yourself in trouble with a jet.” Besides, “a drift boat can go where a jet boat can’t.”

“The fish get pushed into grass beds and gravel flats. When you get extended flows of high water, the biggest fish in the river go to the banks to get rest,” said Lafkas. “As the water gets really high, there is less water for the fish, and the fish get piled in limited areas.”

“I always like high water because your chances at a 10 pound fish are higher. In high water, “You know where I will avoid? The dam.”

“Caddis is the main thing right now, in April,” said Lafkas. “Midges and Caddis are important. There are a lot of aquatic worms down there.” Lafkas suggested using the Pink Power Worm.

“There are 15 pound, 17 year old fish in the river,” said Lafkas. “They are managing it (the White River) for a

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MFFC Calendar



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.

August 22, 2018

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: TBD

Topic: TBD

Costic Activities Center

Farmington Hills, 7:30 p.m.

September, 2018

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Tommy Lynch



Continued from page 1
Brown Trout fishery.”

“The Rainbow Trout are stocked. The Brown Trout naturally reproduce here.”

A slide labeled “Gear” flashed on the screen. “I take it all,” said Lafkas. “That’s because of the dam going up and down. You have to fish deep, and shallow. You have to fish high and low water. Take an intermediate rod. It’s always about dam flows.”

“You can throw a streamer any time you want,” said Lafkas. “You need a 40 to 50 foot cast. Fish are sitting in a foot of water or less. The number one advantage is to make sure the fish don’t know you are there. It’s always about casting.”

“I pretty much take every fly I own and every rod I own and I’m pretty set,” Lafkas said.

Fish can get crazy during the shad kill. “When the water drops, the fish get caught in cold water and go into shock. Big fish come in an gorge.” Lafkas said. He suggests a gurgler with a four foot drop, use “The Hippy Chick, the Meat Whistle, White Rabbit on a hook works well...” Whatever the flow, Lafkas said to match the size of the fly to the size of the water.

“In the summer you are fishing in a rainforest down there,” said Lafkas. “You just go. You get the water you get and you make the best of it.”

“Sight fishing is hard, but that’s fun. As for a Trout fishing, this place is cool.” Lafkas said you need a 50 foot cast.

Spawning is in October. “November to December, into January it’s a salmon run,” said Lafkas. “This is a major deal.”

Then there are the snakes. “The White doesn’t have any snakes, but the other rivers...oh yeah...,” said Lafkas. “I stepped out of the boat and saw a snake and I just ran...the guys laughed...”



Alex Lafkas

Fishing Guide/Instructor

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These fish are whipped on,” said Lafkas, “absolutely whipped on, so distance casting is important.”

“Brown Trout are Brown Trout. When they come out, they come out,” said Lafkas with a shrug.

“We get a bad rap. We’re throwing streamers all over the place every day.”

“Just go and grind it out.”

Fishing on the White River is “too affordable, too close, too much of what Michigan guys want to fish,” said Lafkas. “It’s taken on a life of it’s own.”

“I don’t care what you want to do. You gotta do what the dam allows (you to do).”

“The first year I didn’t go to Florida, I went to Arkansas and I never went back,” said Lafkas. “It’s gin clear water. You are hunting one fish at a time. It’s totally fake, but alot of fun!”



Members

On The Fly



Craig & Kelly Summers Red Fish fishing in Destin, Florida.



Corey Thelan fishing Opening Day.



Working hard at the Trout Tune-Up.



MFFC Business

Meeting Minutes

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board Meeting April 18, 2018 at 7:30 pm

Rollcall

Present: Freeburg, Vanderhoof, Bada, Bocks, Nowicki, Strachan, Summers, Selinger, Oehring, Finstad
Guests: Linda Bocks, Jim Telinda, Sybil Hunter, Chris Hunter

Approval of Minutes - Approved Approval of Agenda - Approved

Officer Reports

President - Freeburg

A medical professional contacted MFFC regarding the Project Healing Waters organization

Vice President - Vanderhoof

No report at this time.

Treasurer - Nowicki

No significant changes this past month.

Budget satisfactory as of March.

Adjustments made to: Speakers/fees/expense; correction to bamboo banquet prize rod & money recorded under conservation.

Corresponding Secretary - Bocks

Speakers booked through Nov 2018.

Hatch - Sybil Hunter

No updates at this time.

Website - Harry Briggs

No updates at this time.

Membership - Bada

Currently 435 active members.

MFFC has approximately 51 female members.

Possible means and goals to increase female membership discussed.

Events & Outings

Opening Day, April 28, celebrations to be held at Gates Lodge and Dam 4 as is tradition.

New Business

2019 Expo Headliners under contract are: Pat Dorsey, Blue Quill Anglers; Taylor Edrington, Royal Gorge Flyshop; Tim Cammisa, Pennsylvania "U-Tube" star; Jen Rippel, Dunn Magazine editor; Alice Owsley, West Yellowstone Guide, Riverside Anglers.

Old Business

Budget: Discussed and accepted for presentation to membership. \$21,000 awarded for Conservation, divided among 13 recipients.

Visitor Comments: None.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:55 pm

2017/18 Conservation Committee Report

This year fourteen Requests for Conservation Funds were submitted for discussion by the Conservation Committee composed of Alan Haxton, Chris Hunter, Kevin Lipp, Joe Sprys and Eric Center. The budget for Conservation was set at \$21,280 available for dispersal while there were requests for \$33,768. The committee granted these fourteen requests amounts for the following groups and projects.

1. Nicole Watson /MSU Collect data regarding the reintroduction of Grayling into Michigan waters - \$2,200
2. MFFC Salt Water Committee – Funds will be used to pay students for cleaning up Curtis Creek Landing in the Bahamas 3 times a year - \$300
3. Au Sable River Property Owners Association – To plant Cedar trees to help with stabilization of the riverbank and to provide needed shade for the fish environment - \$1,000
- 3a. Au Sable River Property Owners Association – To remove Purple Loosestrife between Grayling and Parmalee - \$518
4. Anglers of the Au Sable – Analysis of insects at six sites on the North Branch for a baseline data of the macro invertebrate population - \$1,100
5. Conservation Resource Alliance – Syers Creek Fish Habitat Improvement and Dam removal- \$3,637
6. Mason-Griffith Founders Chapter of TU – Monitoring the North Branch of the Au Sable for Organic containment - \$600
7. Vanguard Chapter TU – Paint Creek fish habitat restoration by placing LWD in designated areas - \$2,500
8. Upper Black River Council – Install LWD in the Black River up and downstream from Tin Shanty Bridge - \$2000
9. Clinton River Watershed Council – Gallagher Creek data collection, monitoring and restoration of LWD to allow for the return of Brook Trout and its habitat - \$1,500
10. Upper Manistee River Association – To place and maintain Porta-Potties at 8 locations on the Upper Manistee (612, Loggerhand, M-72, Hole in the Wall, Yellow Tree, Z Landing, Hole in the Fence, and 3 mile Bend) - \$2,000
11. Huron River Watershed Council – Print and distribute field manual on placing LWD for municipalities - \$1,000
12. MFFC – Dam Four Porta-Potty- Place and maintain porta-potty at Dam Four for the season - \$625
13. Miller Van Winkle Chapter TU – Habitat mapping of the Maple River in Emmet County - \$2,300



2017 – 2018 Officers

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May Fly Of The Month

Stop! Streamer Time!

Meat Whistle

By Todd A. Schotts

For May's fly of the month, we are going to go back to STREAMER TIME! This fly is great for those dancing Smallmouth and the majestic Trout we love to fish for. If you look into my fly box, this fly has been a staple since I started tying this quite a few years back for passed away member and friend Herb Seymour (this was his go to fly for Smallmouth for the years he attended the Smallmouth Outing).

The designer of this unique and successful fly pattern is John Barr from Colorado. He is a fly designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants. John started fly tying when he was around six years old. He learned the art of fly tying from his next door neighbor. From there he started fly fishing, also an early age, around the San Jose, California area fishing for Crappies and Bluegills in the local gravel pits. With John honing his skills, he started to fish for Trout in the Merced River, Yosemite National Park and various streams and lakes throughout the Sierras. With his improved fishing techniques, he has become one of the most profound fly designers in the fly fishing industry. Here are just a few of the flies that John has created: the famous Barr Emerger, Copper John, Slumpbuster, Jumbo John, and Barr's Uncased Caddis. Along with designing flies, he is the

author of *Barr Flies: How to Tie And Fish The Copper John, Barr Emerger, and Dozens of Other Variations, Patterns and Rigs* (published August 2018), a book that if you tie, should be in your library. In addition to being an author and fly designer, John is on the advisory staff for Sage, Simms, Rio, Outcast, and is a member of the Ross pro staff.

For this month's fly, it is a fly John created for Bass fishing in Colorado. If you are familiar with the "Pig n' Jig" system in spin cast fishing, that is what he emulated for fly fishing with this fly pattern. With the marabou, rabbit strips, and rubber legs, this fly comes alive in the water system. This pattern is a great imitation of a crawfish, and tied in different colors and sizes can also replicate small baitfish.

Make sure you are careful not to build up to much bulk when tying in the zonker at the front of the fly, as you have a lot more materials to tie in on the front, and then you have to deal with the cone. The ribbing material is used to create a rib to help secure down the zonker material to the hook. Make sure you pull the hair on the zonker apart to get the wire down on the leather strip and try not to bind down the hair when wrapping the wire forward. With the legs, make sure you have two on each side when tied in, and the flash needs to go 360 degrees around the fly. You can achieve this by using your thumb and finger to help distribute the flash around the hook. To finish the fly, you push the cone back onto the other materials, then take your thread and make a thread base in front of the cone. Keep the same angle as the cone to create thread.

When fishing this pattern, I do recommend a 6 weight fly rod or bigger if tied in size 1/0 or bigger. With the weight of this fly, floating line works great and

Meat Whistle



HOOK: 90 degree Jig Hook #1/0
CONE: Large Tungsten Copper Cone
THREAD: 140 Denier or 6/0 rusty brown
RIBBING: Ultra Wire, Brassie Copper Brown
WING: Rusty Brown Rabbit Zonker
LEGS: Pumpkin Barred Sili Legs
FLASH: Copper Flashabou
COLLAR: Brown Marabou

helps to give the fly more action as you strip it back in to shore.

To fish this pattern, it can be hopped and dropped slowly, with a jigging type action, or it can be stripped very quickly. It really depends on what you are trying to imitate with the fly, as in a crawfish or baitfish. From my experience fishing this fly, I actually prefer to do the hop and drop slowly.

So for those early season Smallmouth or lunker Trout, sling some bobbins and just whistle while you tie up some of John Barr's Meat Whistle. Until next time, Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.



May Tyer Of The Month

Featured Member Tyer

Tying Experience

Dan Walker



I began fly fishing in the late 60s for bBluegills and small Bass. My high school fishing buddy introduced me to Wisconsin Trout. After a couple of years of college I spent a couple of years living in Yellowstone and fishing the backcountry, primarily with dries and streamers. I moved to Michigan for the Steelhead, but also fished the PM, South Branch and Tippy

Dam tailwaters for Trout. I fished with dries, soft hackles, and streamers. For dries, I started out with Elk Hair Caddis and the pheasant tippet tail Adams but took up the Klinkhamer style when I found that more versatile and effective.

The Klinkhamer Emerger

This style of fly is a very reliable dry fly. It suggests a mayfly dun emerging above the surface film, from the nymph shuck hanging below the surface. At this moment the bug is an easy target, neither able to fly nor swim evasively. The tan abdomen is the generic color of most mayfly nymphs and the thorax can be dubbed of the adult's color. Many tiers keep the peacock thorax and choose the abdomen color to match the adult. Some mayflies that emerge in the surface film are; Blue Wing Olives, Hendricksons, Sulfurs, Brown Drakes, Ephrons, Hexs. I suspect it will work in a Caddis hatch also. I will have materials for the standard pattern on a Dai-Riki 125 #12, a Klinkhamer hook #10 and a #6 Smallmouth Huron Hex version with a foam waking head.

Klinkhamer Emerger



HOOK: *OrientSun 7018 #6 to 14; Klinkhamer Style for Larger sizes - Dai-Riki 125 #12 to 16; Shorter shank, Wide Gap for Smaller sizes*

THREAD: *8/0 Uni in any natural color; 6/0 for Large sizes*

BODY: *Tan dubbing or Thin yarn*

POST: *White or Grey synthetic fiber - Stiff and Glossy is best*

HACKLE: *Cree, Brown, Grey - Depending on the bug*

THORAX: *Peacock Herl*

TOOLS: *Hackle Pliers*



Dan Walker





Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Forensic

Al The Hackleman

Making Some Plans For The Season Ahead

Heh gang its fishing season.

We had another great opening day of Trout Season this year. While the weather was not the best, and the fishing conditions were less than great, it sure was a good day to see old friends and meet new fishing buddies. And now, well it's fishing season for us all.

Each winter Joyce and I spend some time doing things to make the next fishing season better. Or at least a bit more organized. We not only spend time tying flies to use during our fishing trips but we also clean fly lines, sort of organize our fly boxes and review our notes about what did and what did not work quite as well as we had hoped. Each winter it's a labor of love to look at all our gear and remember the times shared on the streams and lakes. The memories flood back with bigger fish and more days spent outside on our favorite trout streams along with some of our favorite inland lakes.

During the dark winter days we also like to look at maps, particularly at those little blue lines that mean streams that might need our attention during the coming season. We note areas that look like they might be fun and make notes about where they are and how we might find access from roads shown on the same maps. We also look at Google

Earth for maybe a bit more insight into access points that might not show up on maps and other paper guides.

This winter we discovered some boxes of flies that quite frankly, we had forgotten we had. Boxes appeared from the depths of our fishing closet that we had not seen in a while. And it made us a bit upset, because these boxes were for Bass and other warm water species that we truly enjoy catching. Those boxes brought the realization that during last season we did not fish much for Bass. We left the float tubes in the garage, unused and lonely. Shame on us both.

So this year we made a pact. We are going to spend more time fishing some of the local lakes for Bass and use those float tubes to show them how much we missed them. Instead of looking at maps for blue lines of streams we looked for blobs of blue, lakes and ponds that might contain some fun fishing opportunities. We chatted with friends and fishing buddies about ponds they fished during summer, or during winter ice fishing times. And we made some notes about those lakes and made more notes about when we might have opportunities to try them out. We tied some more Bass flies, and some smaller Bluegill flies for those fish too. All in all it was a good way to help the long winter go bye and help us look forward to our fishing this season.

It was a good lesson learned. It is very easy to get focused on just one type of fly fishing when you live on a fine trout stream. We can look out our front windows and see one of the nicest trout streams in our state. That is truly a wonderful bonus of living here, but it can also be a limiting factor too. We look at the stream and think of trout. We can see hatches when they happen. We can see

rising trout and know that it is time to fish for them, NOW. But it does sort of take the fun away from going someplace new and trying new flies and such. That is one reason we look for the blue lines each winter. But again, in the background, we were not looking for blue blobs. And that placed limits on our fishing. We did not like that idea, of limits. So we branched out and found new spots to fish - new blue blobs to explore and discover.

I challenge you. Don't limit yourselves. Expand your areas of enjoyment this season. Get out onto one of those wonderful Bass streams around the metro area. I have great memories of fishing the Huron River our near Ann Arbor...also some wonderful memories of float tubing some of the lakes around Brighton and Kensington Park. There are so many areas that can bring new enjoyment and smiles just a few miles from home. So look at the maps, consider what is reasonable and make some plans for explore some new rivers or ponds near your house. Get out there and discover what swims in those waters. And smile the summer fishing season away.

Till this fall, Tight Lines.

Now get out there and fish.

Up-Coming

Club Events

Women's Outing May 31-June 3, contact Linda Bocks. Club Picnic July 21(good eats), at Multilakes Conservation Club, contact John Erikson. Au Sable River Clean-up at Gates Lodge September 8, contact Al Haxton. Manistee River Clean-up September 22, contact Al Haxton. Muskegon River Outing September 20-23, contact Todd Schotts.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events

Michigan Fly Fishing Club's

Youth School

What do the following MFFC members have in common? ~ Rick Annesser, Pete Cesaro, Len Dixon, Fred Field, Steve Gudich, Vickie Harrington, Mike Harrington, Terry Herron, Steve Isgrigg, Jack Keller, John Klobuchar, Spencer Vanderhoof, and Jim Weakland ~ If you guessed a love of fishing, you would only be partially correct. The absolutely correct answer is they shared their love of fishing, their time, and their talents spending Saturday, May 5, 2018 as instructors and/or mentors at the annual MFFC Youth School. A HUGE thank you goes out to these dedicated MFFC members.

The weather was wonderful, the instructors/mentors were enthusiastic and full of fishing knowledge. The youth were eager to learn. This year's Youth School had eight students. Five of the youth were returning students and three were new this year.

The day began with a basic overview of fly fishing by Len Dixon, event coordinator. We then moved on to Entomology (aka, what fish eat) presented by Spence Vanderhoof. Spence has a way of making bugs so interesting that the youth are fascinated. Next up, the youth were led in fly tying by Terry Herron and Jim Weakland. These two gentlemen make it look easy and soon had the youth tying two flies of their very own. One group tied a Woolly

Bugger and a Soft Hackle, while the other group tied Mickey Finn and a Pheasant Tail Nymph.

Lunch was a time to share fishing stories while eating to gain energy for the afternoon program. Vickie and Mike Harrington made a wonderful instruction team as they covered the basic fly fishing equipment in one segment and knot tying in the next segment. As they moved among the youth, offering tips and encouragement, they soon had them mastering these necessary knot skills. Fred Field was up next with a review of safety near the water, rod and reel assembly, and casting instruction (outdoors). He had the youth itching to get to the pond to try their new casting skill.

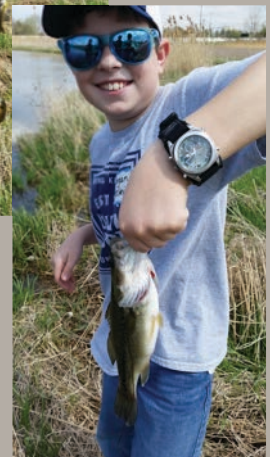
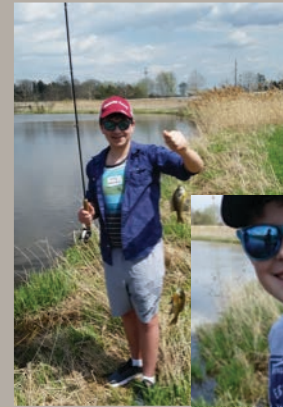
Added to the day of learning and fun, we were happy to have Charlie Gray join us for a good part of the day. Charlie has been a long-time supporter of the youth school and has a wealth of knowledge and many fishing stories.

In addition to the two flies the youth tied at the school, they each went home with some goodies. Thank you to Vickie and Mike Harrington who tied three flies for each youth, Steve Gudich for the three Chernobyls for each youth, and Steve Isgrigg who made personalized fly boxes into which each youth put their flies tied at Youth School.

Now, for the end results of the 2018 MFFC Youth School. Each of the eight participants caught fish! There were over 20 fish total caught that day by the youth. Good weather, great mentors and instructors, youth eager to learn, and fish caught made for a very successful Youth School.

Thank you to all the club members who made this day possible!

Len Dixon, Event Coordinator
Article submitted by Mary Dixon



Here are a couple pictures of my grandson's catches from Saturday. The one with the double is the first time with a fly rod. The one with the smallmouth is his first bronze back. Thank again for all you guys do for the club. - John Klobuchar



Sami Queen gets it done again!



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