



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

September 2016

Fishing Michigan's Bronze Corridor

By Sybil Hunter

"The state's best fishing is right here," said Dirk Fishbach, fly fishing guide and joint owner of The Painted Trout in Dexter, Michigan, at September's MFFC speaker meeting. Dirk was referring to Michigan's Bronze Corridor which consists of the Grand, the Raisin, the Huron, the Shiawassee, and the Flint rivers, plus all the waters that feed that system.

"95% of the water within an easy drive, 2/3 of it is warm water fishing," said Dirk. "Warm water streams exceed 70 degrees. Heat puts them (the fish) into sluggish mode. Warm water has slower flows and high aquatic life." They are also flashier waters. These warm water streams house Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Rock Bass, Northern Pike, Bluegill and Carp. Daily stream flows and conditions, along with gauge height, oxygen content and temperature can be found at USGS.gov. "Get to know your streams and you are going to catch more fish," Dirk pointed out.

Shiawassee River "From Owasso to Chesaning is the best stretch," said Dirk. Access points include Henderson Park, road crossings, and anything downstream to Chesaning.

Flint River "Flushing is the main access area. Fish from Riverside Park down to Barber Park." Good access



Dirk Fishbach & Sam Hunter

points include: Flushing Riverview Park (boat access); Flushing Township Nature Park; Dodge Road (the dirt road butts into the river); Barber Park ("You'd better stay in the river or you'll be talking to the sheriff," advised Dirk.); Montrose Vienna Road and Mount Morris Road. "This section is very runoff influenced," said Dirk. "You see stuff in the tress, because the water goes up that high!" Then, "After June, you get significant grass and can't even get a streamer through." But if you get out there, "You'll catch 75-100 Smallmouth from a boat in a day." Dirk also said, "When it's good it's good and when it's bad - go somewhere else."

Grand River "...is the longest river in the lower peninsula." Fish from Grand Ledge down to Portland. There are

Continued on page 2

MFFC Calendar



September 28, 2016

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

October 12, 2016

Speaker Meeting
Speaker: Jerry Regan
Topic: Classic Au Sable Flies
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

October 19, 2016

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

November 2, 2016

Speaker Meeting
Speaker: Todd Schotts
Topic: Upper White River
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

November 16, 2016

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



More MFFC News ->

multiple access sites. "It is a good stretch of water, you see bald eagles, and alot of fish," said Dirk. In Portland there are steelhead and salmon.

Raisin River Fish From Manchester to Clinton. "It feels like you're on a little spring creek up north," said Dirk. It becomes larger farther down. "Put in at Sharon Mills then fish down to Sharon Valley Road. It's a long walk back, but worth it." Other access points include Ervin-Stucki Preserve (bank fishing) and Clinton-Tate Park (carp).

Huron River Fish Bell Road to Hudson Mills Metropark. "Center around Dexter," said Dirk. "Where there's this really awesome fly shop... It's the longest stretch (12 miles) of undamed water. There are 19 main dams and 17 tributary dams. The best access point is Hudson Mills Metropark off Territorial Road. There used to be a bridge there, but the bridge fell apart and the State called it an access point." Another good stretch to fish is from the Dexter Huron Metropark to Zeeb Road. "There are seven to eight log jams, it is very nice to dry fly fish and is very good water," said Dirk. Also, start at East Delhi fishing down to Osborne Mill.

"Pull out at West Delhi because the rapids are too unsafe," said Dirk.

Equipment For The Bronze Corridor Dirk advises 5-, 6- and 7-wt. 9 ft. rods, a good single action reel, and floating lines. For Pike, us an 8-wt 9 ft. rod, disc-drag reel and weight forward line. For Carp, use a 7-wt. 8 ft. fiberglass (Fenwick is Dirk's fave), disc-drag reel (a must), and double taper line ("After the carp beat half of it to death, turn it around and use the other half.").

Take Wooly Buggers. "Anything that has a 'bugger' in it is gonna work," said Dirk. Other flies Dirk suggested are: Erik's Smooth (it simulates a two hook fly without the second hook, it will not poke a fish's eye out like a two hook system, and it won't come out looking like "you're throwing a wad of snot," according to Dirk.); Fuzzabou Shad (for its flutter movement); Circus Peanut (which also emulates an articulated fly); Zoo Cougar; Lead Eye Leech ("For runoff streams, you need a fly that can get down in the water."); Crayfish (As their movement is hard to imitate, revert to a Wooly Bugger); Gartside Gurgler (pop, or drift naturally); Chernobyl Ant; Sneaky Pete (a popper that drifts down instead of popping); and for dry flies - match the hatch.

Dirk favors: Dirk's Mulberry, tied in purple and raspberry, spun with deer hair so it floats; a Carp Bitter; a Carp Destroyer ("I think it's actually alot like what the cat barfed up," said Dirk.); and the McTage's McLouin (it hops along, hook point up).

In parting, Dirk said, "When carp are on the hunt for food, their head is down... throw in front of them...but there is more than just fish out there, there are is mink, turkey, osprey, bald eagles, and deer all over the place. What we got right here is something really special. It's silly not to take advantage of it."

Members On The Fly

Around The Country



Here's Randy Park with his reward for cleaning up the Au Sable!



Bruce Strachen in Soda Butte



Spencer at Breezy Point, Colorado



Fine goods for a sporting life
7940 Ann Arbor St.
Dexter, MI 48130

PaintedTrout.com
Lauren Kingsley - Dirk Fischbach

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Dirk@paintedtrout.com



MFFFC Business

Fall into Happiness on page 6

Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board Meeting May 25, 2016 at 7:30 pm

Rollcall

Present: Bocks, Doyle, Finstad,, Hunter, Montagne, Nowicki, Oehring, Telinda
Absent: Freeburg, Vanderhoof
Guests: Don Oehring, Linda Bocks

Approval of Minutes - Approved
Approval of Agenda - Approved

Officer Reports

President – Finstad

Thanks for outgoing Board Members
Volunteer of Year award presented
Action for Jim T to talk with Clarenceville MS about 2016-2017 Calendar Year dates for club meetings

Vice President - Freeburg

No updates at this time

Treasurer – Oehring

Under expense budget planned; some invoices not yet seen (i.e. rent for middle school & banquet rental expenses); new budget starts August 1st
Treasurer's Report approved

Corresponding Secretary - Vanderhoof

Speaker Update: Oct speaker; Feb speaker (Chris Lessway from Fullers); future monthly speakers will be local and not too expensive.

Hatch - Sybil Hunter

Post banquet hatch almost done; 100 hardcopies, 25 to RO HS and 50 for Orvis for each month; disconnect w/ soft copies via Constant Contact (due to size limitation) but Steve Bocks is working on getting a blast out.

Website - Harry Briggs

Action for Harry to get dates from Steve to get summer meetings onto the website

Membership – Nowicki

442 members; get summer flyer from/to John Erickson

Events and Outings

Summer meetings: June 8th: Kevin Breen (Painted Trout) is speaker

Bass Outing: water is up; fish were active on Saturday;

New Member Outing: 22 new members; fishing was excellent

New Business

Summer Outing: Bishop Lake (Brighton State Rec Area) on June 1st – runs every non meeting nights

Speaker Meeting: Jerry Regan - October 12,, 2016

Raffle: Linda – next year will have an emphasis on new members and female members; emphasis on eye candy to sell more tickets; current inventory from John handed over to Linda Bocks;

MFFC Brochure: need more brochures for the shows; need BoD members to look for current inventory (approx. 500 to a box) and what was the old format looked like; Membership also ; last run – two years ago was 2 boxes

Old Business

Huron Pointe Sportsman – Heritage Days: still seeking volunteers for a midweek event for Aug. 28th; Inquiry needed Scott & Spence at next summer meeting.
Visitor Comments: See above.

Adjournment



Past President recognition

Noted Special

Recognition

Thank you Spencer for all the wonderful travelogue photographs from around the state, and country, that you provide to The Evening Hatch!



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September Fly Of The Month

European Style

Czech Nymph

By Todd A. Schotts

For this month's fly of month, I decided to bring a fly to you that would be a great asset to your arsenal if you're going on the new September "The Muskegon River Outing." It is the Czech Nymph. So for this month we will be having the 10 step Czech Nymph by Jindra Lacko. I have tried these flies, they are easy to tie and fish great. My pattern changes a few procedures and some of the materials to items more readily available in the U.S.

Regarding its history, the first Czech Nymph was tied with a plastic foam body from a kitchen sponge, horsehair ribbing, and a shellback from a salami skin. The Czech Nymph style, or method, didn't have its first great success until the World Championships in Belgium in 1986. Then in 1990, Czech Nymphs broke through the World Championships as a global pattern where it brought the title of World Champions for the Czech Team. Besides Czech Nymphing, there is Polish, Spanish, and Italian Nymphing, or otherwise referred to as European Nymphing. Each one of these styles uses basically the same type of flies, but the fishing techniques are quite different. Variances include use of short leaders, long leaders, or how the fly is presented to the inhabitants of the water. The fly rods are usually 3, 4, or 5 weight rods that are 10, 11, or 12 feet long, but you can use regular length fly rods. The rod tips on the longer rods are very

sensitive, aiding in feeling the take of flies by the fish.

The "Czech Nymph" is a term known throughout the fly fishing world. There is a certain way of tying these unique flies. The flies must be slim/skinny, weighted, and tied on grub or gammarus style hook that will imitate fresh water shrimp or the case-less larvae of caddis flies. These flies are tied thin to help sink the fly quickly. Another known feature is to have a "Hot Spot" incorporated into the fly. This is usually located between the body and head/legs area and is a drastic color change, such as red, pink, or orange that will entice the fish to strike - this is optional. One more typical feature is the shell back on the flies is made from thin skin materials such as plastic bags or latex strips, just to name a few. The shell is normally darker than the body dubbing.

If you are interested more into the world of Czech or European Style of Nymphing, there are some great DVD's out on the market from Steve Parrott, Aaron Jasper, and Jeff Currier and others. Hopefully you will join the fun I have had tying these amazing Trout morsels.

Czech Nymph



HOOK: 8 thru 16 Dai Riki 125/135, TMC 2487/2457, Daiichi 1130/1150, or Mustad 37160

THREAD: 6/0 UNI thread color Tan or to match body material

WEIGHT: medium size flat lead or 0.035 round flatten to wrap around hook shank

BACK: Think Skin, Latex, Plastic Bag

RIBBING: 5x Tippet Material is best

BODY: Hare dubbing dyed light Olive; Angora Goat dubbing dyed hot orange; 60 Hare/40 Angora Goat dubbing dyed Black

COLOR: a light touch of black Prismatic or Copic Marker systems; Sharpies work, but cannot blend colors

Step 1: Select your hook

Step 2: Add a layer of lead, one layer works great, but you can add another layer for more weight. But on second layer make it one turn shorter than bottom layer. Do not extend the lead past the hook's bend. If you do, your fly will be skinny with a big arse, which we do not want.

Step 3: Tie in your thread; you want to use 6/0 because it will be able to withstand the abuse and pressure of tying this fly. With tan thread, it won't darken the dubbing as if you use olive or black.

Step 4: Rib and Back Cover. Make sure your shell back is darker than the body material you use on the fly. Remember tie both materials down tightly so you will avoid having a skinny big arse fly.

Step 5: Dub the abdomen about one half of the body. If you are using natural dubbing, be aware it will darken once wet, so select color accordingly. Remember SKINNY fly!

Step 6: Hot Spot step. Use just want a small band of this. See the picture. Remember SKINNY.

Step 7: Thorax/Legs. This is with scruffy dubbing with longish materials, like Angora goat, seal, or hare. Make sure you leave just enough space for the head, remember SKINNY, NO BIG ARSE FLY!!!

Step 8: Fold over the Back shell. Once you pull it over, stretching it slightly forward tie in. But do not trim off until you rib the fly.

Step 9: Ribbing: wrap the material the direction of your thread. Keep the wraps evenly spaced. Tie off the ribbing then trim the excess shell or backing off.

Step 10: Brush you're dubbing with a dubbing brush to get your fly really buggy. Then color the head and front half of the shell with the marker.



Super Star Speaker Of The Summer

St. Clair River & Lake Flies

Anthony Mule

By Todd A. Schotts

For our summer August meeting, we went to the world of prehistoric species of the Apex Predator and this presentation was brought to us by professional fly tyer, new fly fishing legend, and shop pro at Riverview Fly Shop: Anthony Mule!

The fishing report on Anthony is that he started tying flies about 3 years ago; and he is self taught with help from YouTube and books. His patterns for Musky, Bass, Pike, and Brown Trout rate up there with some of the best in the industry. One of his favorite patterns is his "Great Lakes Gobie." This fly is an articulated streamer that mimics the invasive species of the Great Lakes Gobies. He said he loves to fish this fly for Smallmouth Bass and Freshwater Drum. Another pattern he has is called the "Buck Nasty" which he uses for Muskie and Northern Pike. Not to leave out all you Trout Bums, he has a pattern called "Brownies Best Friend" that he uses for Brown Trout. He also mentioned one of the other flies that you must have while fishing the waters of Lake St. Clair and St. Clair River is the famed Clouser, a great go to fly.

For fishing, he has fly fished since four years old and is planning on becoming a Guided Captain so he can take people out fishing in Lake St. Clair and St. Clair river. If you are wondering if he is the real deal, well the day before our meeting, while out on the

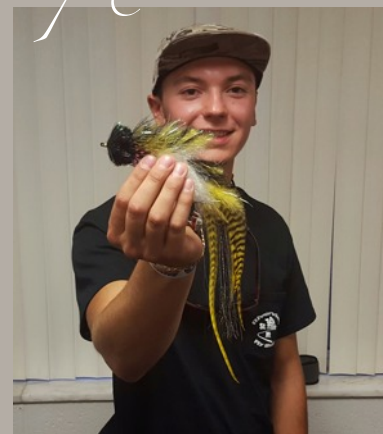
waters, he landed a 52" Muskie on the fly rod!! And when he is not fishing you can find him in the shop tying flies, filling the fly bins, or creating new patterns. Oh, all of this and he is only 19 years old.

His presentation gave us a glimpse of what you may need if fishing the different species in Lake St. Clair or St. Clair River. So if you are interested in fishing Smallmouth, the gear you may want to bring would be a 7 to 8 weight 9 ft. fly rod, with Intermediate Leader to be able to get the fly down to the fish. A fly he mentioned along with his Great Lakes Gobie pattern would be his Pike Snack. The next species he talked about would be the toothy critter the Pike. The fly rods for these species are the same as Bass with being 7 & 8 weight 9 ft. fly rods. He mentioned you would want sinking line with a 7.5 ft. 15 lb. wire leader. From there he went to the next species he likes to chase would be the Fresh Water Drum. The fly rods would be the same as mentioned for Pike and Smallmouth Bass, but with a sinking line. The leader he recommends to use would be a 9 ft. 8 lb. line and the fly, well that would be his Great Lakes Gobie. He also mentioned that slow strips work great for these fish. And then we wrapped it up with the one and only the Apex Predator, Muskie!!! For these fish you are going to be looking at 10 or 12 weight 9 ft. fly rods. The lines he recommends would be intermediate or sinking lines. For the reels for any of these fish, he mentioned you really do not have to go extreme and costly.

As I mentioned above, he works with his mom and dad, Marie and Anthony C. Mule, at the Riverview Fly Shop in St. Clair. The fly shop is located at: 201 N. Riverside Ave D5, St. Clair, MI 48079. You can contact them at (810) 637-8452.

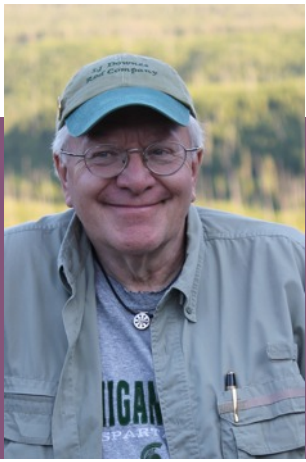
Since Anthony's heart and passion is in the tying arena, he mentioned he strives in having lots and lots of different, and quality,

Apex Predator



fly tying materials. Along with tying materials, they also carry materials like TFO, Rise Fishing Co Fly Rods, Lamson, Allen and TFO Reels, Rio, SA, and TFO for Lines and Tippet, they have tying classes in the winter and advanced tying classes. You can check them out online at: riverviewflyshop.wixsite.com or on Facebook at Riverview Fly Shop.

If you want to learn the "Apex Predator" way, then stop in the shop and talk to Anthony while he is spinning bobbins and tying up the next go to predator fly pattern.



Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Guru

Al The Hackleman

Falling Into Happiness

Hello all MFFC folks.
Get ready for Salmon Time.

It's fall. That wonderful time of the year for fly fishers. It's time for TWO meetings a month. It's time to start thinking about The Midwest Fly Fishing Show. It's time to look through all your stuff and think about the garage sale. Heck, it's even time to make your Christmas list, so if you don't get stuff for Christmas you can just take that list to the show in March and fill the dreams. It's time to think about tying flies during the cold winter months, to filling the open spots in the fly boxes from flies that we used all during the summer fishing season.

In short, it's a wonderful time of the year.

And one of the coolest things for this time of the year is Salmon. And Steelhead. The big fish are coming into our rivers right now. Making their way upstream to spawn and make a whole new bunch of big fish for us to catch. Just think of all the opportunities for new experiences. We can share the experience of fishing for these huge fish. We can share the experience of tying new types of flies. We can learn a new type of fishing that needs new rods and reels. More stuff to add to that list for Christmas. Spey rods and reels and lines. Special flies that make Spey casting more fun and adventurous. Just imagine fly casting, without a backcast. What a concept. Big long rods for Salmon and Steelhead. Fishing for the fish of a year. Fish that are only available for a short time and then gone until next year. Fish that truly will take you into your backing. Fish that will try your patience, try your abilities, and really make your reel scream. What a wonderful

thing. So get out and give it a try, soon.

For me its also a time to reflect back on the past summer's fishing and ask myself why I didn't fish more. Why did I not get out more often to just get into a stream and throw a fly around? I live right on a trout stream, what's wrong with me? I did not get the float tube out of storage, even once. No Bass were caught this summer. Not a good thing. Now on the good side, I *did* get my grandsons out fishing. It was a wonderful experience. On the first day I told the older one that you must kiss the first fish so you catch more fish. He thought that was cool and laid lips to his first Bluegill - without a second thought. He also caught more fish. Now the younger, he was sort of not so impressed with the idea. He looked at me with a strange face and basically said "Yeah, right grandpa, kiss a fish..." So when he caught his first fish he sort of blew a kiss at it and said that would have to be enough. And he caught more fish too. The really cool thing, for me, was the fact that during the second day of fishing my older grandson looked at his spinning rod and my fly rod and told me he really wanted to use my rod that day. So he fished the fly rod, and caught fish. I think a few more times and he will be converted and come over to the light side. I hope.

On another subject, we had another great trip to Yellowstone this August. Our groups enjoyed lots of fishing, lots of catching, and lots of good friendship and shared experiences. Perhaps the best part of the trip this year was having a young, 13 year old, lady on one of the weeks. On her first day of fishing she went on the guide trip and in an area of the Madison that is not known for huge fish; she caught a 19 1/2" Brown Trout. Then she had a 17" Rainbow. And then her mom caught some "baby fish." It was a great week of folks coming back each evening with stories of great fish, but never beating her big starting fish. She had a smile a yard wide by week's end. And I know she is hooked on fly fishing. We are already in the planning stages for next year's trip to Yellowstone. Mark it on



The Holy Waters of the Au Sable River

your calendar, three weeks again, starting Saturday July 29, 2017. Joyce and I will be at the first meeting of December to begin the sign up process. Deposits are not needed, just a name and email address so we can send information about each week's adventure.

Now onto a tough subject.

New Zealand Mud Snails have recently been found in the AuSable River. These invasive species were found downstream from the Grayling Fish Hatchery on the East Branch of the river. Now there has been a lot of information about the Grayling Fish Hatchery lately. Most of it bad. And it seems to just be getting worse. We do not need Mud Snails in our rivers. And to find these things downstream from the hatchery calls to question why this place is being allowed to pollute one of the most famous trout streams in the Midwest. So it is now time to stand up for a river that we all love. It's time to make our voice heard. It's time to defend the AuSable River. Please go onto the Anglers of the AuSable website, AuSableAnglers.org or look at their Facebook page and read more about this problem. Then contact your Michigan State Representative and voice your concern. Contact our Governor and tell him how you feel about this situation. It's time for an inspection of the Grayling Fish Hatchery. It's time to shut this mess down.

Thank you.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events

Join Me In Welcoming Back

Jim Schrot



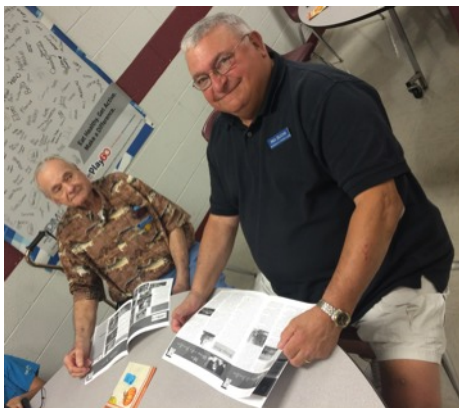
"I've been gone for awhile...it feels like a long while...Thank you for the calls, visits, magazines...It's a really good feeling to have a family of fly fishermen. Thank you."

- Jim Schrot

(We love you Jim, keep healing!)

Caught Reading

The Hatch



Speaker Meeting: Todd Schotts - November 2, 2016

MFFC

Club Picnic



Committee Update

Salt Water

The Salt Water Committee worked out an arrangement with the Rockport (Texas) Fly Fishers for instruction and guidance of MFFC members wishing to pursue redfish and sea trout this coming fall and winter. The Rockport Fly Fishers are a fellow FFF club with 60 members, many from out-of-state wintering in the south Texas area near Corpus Christi. Some of their members are from Michigan.

The preferred method used for fly fishing for redfish and sea trout is kayak. Al Springstead, President of the Rockport Fly Fishers has cordially invited members of the MFFC to visit this area and go fishing with their members. Anyone interested need to get to Corpus Christi and rent a kayak daily. RFF members would act as guides and provide the local fly patterns. Motel accommodations and meals are strictly up to attending MFFC members.

Contact Mike Scott, Salt Water Committee Chairman, if interested.