



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

September 2018

Eggcellent Fishing

By Sybil Hunter

A fly tying machine, fly fishing junkie and general all around knower of all things fly fishing, Tommy Lynch spoke, tied and entertained at the MFFC September speaker meeting. Dubbed the Fish Whisperer by a college girlfriend, Lynch has fished, guided and tied ever since.

“What can you catch on a 5 wt. and an egg fly? Four to six inches of Brown Trout,” said Lynch. “Egging lasts all day every day for a few months.”

“If you have the right egg pattern, you can name that tune in just three casts.”

“You can go out and throw mammals and catch Brown Trout” too, said Lynch. “Nine times out of ten, it’s how you’re fishing the fly, not the fly.”

When the water is low and clear, remember to fish away. “Hoppers, streamers and even mice. It’s a constant fishing campaign,” said Lynch. “Don’t wait for the hatch.”

“We always forget a Steelhead is a migratory animal,” said Lynch, “and the egg produces if you ever want to see a fish get mean! But when you go down and look beyond those Kings for the Browns...target the Browns, they are gorging while the Steelhead spawn because Browns will spawn next.”



“Browns change colors...deep reds, coppers...just like the trees,” said Lynch.

“Does anybody know the difference between an October Trout and a November Trout?” he then asked. “A November fish will take some line and go out a little. An October fish will spend more time out of the water than in the water.”

“Fall is such a great time to be out there,” said Lynch. Steelhead get more aggressive. “A Steelhead on a mouse is one of the best fights!”

Next the Browns spawn. “Watching a Brown Trout coming in with aggression, swinging like Mike Tyson...” is high on Lynch’s list of favorite things.

“Spey fishing means you’re throwing a disco ball into a hole and hoping one of them picks a fight,” said Lynch. *Continued on page 2*

MFFC Calendar



October 10, 2018

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Glenn Weisner

Topic: 50 Pics - 50 Tips

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

October 24, 2018

Activities Meeting

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

November 7, 2018

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Bill Keough

Topic: Hackle from Egg to Fly

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

November 21, 2018

Activities Meeting

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



Fishing The Big Waters of MI

By Sybil Hunter

August welcomed Eric Swies, Au Sable, Manistee and Arkansas guide out of Streamside Custom Rod & Guides Service in Fairview, MI as our guest speaker. He spoke about The Big Waters of Michigan.

"The Au Sable below Mio dam to Alcona Pond, the mainstream above Mio and a few other top secret places are what we refer to when we refer to the Au Sable," said Swies, "[it has] swift current, expansive flats, deep holes, and pools and ripples" This river has it all. "It's an area of wilderness...a true wilderness with no cabins and big Brown Trout are king."

"Use big bait fish patterns, big bugs from June through mid-July," said Swies. Steamers in bright sun are no problem this time of year he said.

The Zoo Cougar, Sex Dungeon, Zuddlers, Sculpins in natural colors, are all flies to be used that time of year said Swies, in sizes four, six and eight. Big flies mean "large reels, heavy leaders... There's no need for anything dainty!"

Stay Mentally Tough. "You can do alot of streamer casting for very little reward," said Swies. "When you're talking an area without a high density of fish, but larger sized fish, stay mentally tough. Don't discount wind, river structure... we get caught up casting to the bank," noted Swies. "Cast straight up from the boat and up stream. You're not bonking the fish. Swing out in front of his face and draw him out of there."

There's Something New Every Year. Next come dark Hendrickson. "This [hatch] is always dependent upon the early/

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 1

Lynch. "You can actually see the fish come up and smash into the fly."

Then there are Coho, said Lynch. They take offense to everything. "They are down there, they just came in from the lake, they're wearing the dumb dumb hat, and down't know how to say no."

Next, Lynch delineated between the two forms of nymphing. Vertical - fishing right under the indicator, and Western - the indicator is away from the targets.

"The strongest thing for us isn't how to get it there, but it's the presentation. You gotta sell that thing," said Lynch pointing out that the fish cannot taste nor feel the fly, so it has to look good.

Talking streamers, "Whenever you are streamer fishing, you are trying to find that one fish that's willing to pick a fight," said Lynch. "The biggest King will take a streamer and that's something to see because it all happens all of a sudden in about a foot of water."

In the end, Lynch is a Brown Trout addict at heart.

"Brown Trout are nocturnal," said Lynch. Go night fishing. "Because it's dark at night, because they hear something, it's a Brown Trout's JOB to go out and check it out. During the day it can be critiqued. You hook these fish on an 8 wt. and you feel the cork bend...you now you're onto the right fish!"



Members

On The Fly



Art Mikkola earned a Master Angler designation on June 23, 2018 in Southern Houghton County while fishing a popper from his kayak! The fish is 11 1/2 inches long by 6 inches.



Scott Freeburg with an Au Sable River Brown.



MFFFC



Continued from page 2

late spring and run-off,” said Swies. “There’s something new every year that we have to adapt to. Use the Hendrickson in size 12 and size 14. The fish are really keyed into the dark Hendrickson.

What-The-Heck-Are-They-Eating. “There is good fishing through May.” Switch over to light Hendrickson, size 14 to 16. “As we move through May they are cuing into light Hendrickson's,” said Swies. “Things don’t get any less exciting, but certainly get more confusing. This is the season of What-the-heck-are-they-eating?”

Quality Drag Is A Must. “Towards the end of the month, activities move more towards darkness,” said Swies. “Use small flies, 5 wt rods, Air Flo floating lines, 9 to 12 foot leaders, and 3, 4, 5x tippet — we need a smooth drag. A quality drag system is a must.”

Our Favorite Month, June. “Kick it off with the Brown Drake,” said Swies. “Let’s face it. We’re addicted to the Drakes, a fickle hatch, a reliably fickle hatch. The North Branch is definitely our indicator.” Expect night hatching and evening spinner falls.

That Nymph Can Produce A Nice Trout. Isonychia size 12 Mayflies come next. “It takes us all the way from early June to late July. That nymph can produce a nice trout. It’s a bug that doesn’t mind a low cloud, drizzly afternoon.”

A Biomass Of Epic Proportions. Next is The Hex Vex. Use size 6 Hexagenia. The Hex Vex is certainly a biomass of epic proportions,” noted Swies. “We are finding our Hex in the big waters.” The hatch is a two night deal. “You really need to get a couple nights of hatching before you get spinner fall. Spinner fall is based on temperature. A light hatch is still not bad, you just need to get the trout to come out. You need to get your fly out

fast before the blow-out.”

Keep Casting. “If there are three Hex patterns you take,” Swies says, “take the White Wing, Natural Spinner, and the Hex Hatcher. I can’t tell you how many more fish I catch casting down stream instead of up stream. In light bugs, keep casts deliberate, if he’s going with regularity...give that fish a rest. Land it gentle. Pick it up gentle, but in heavy bugs — keep casting.”

The Post Hex Recovery. “This is a three day recovery process,” said Swies with a chuckle. “1. Try to adapt to a human schedule. Align yourself with humanity again. 2. Mentally prepare. Ditch the stimulants...Red Bull, cigars...”

Surface Activity. “Big Brown Trout’s hours of operation are not 9-5,” said Swies. “They are still keyed in on surface activity. The low 60’s are ideal fishable temps.” There is “warm but fishable water. When they don’t eat during the day, they certainly eat at night.” Distance and control are key. Use 9 wt. rods and Skagit line with a strong taper that helps you gauge distance.

Arkansas. Then from January to March, “Go down to Arkansas.” The shop offers a three day, four night trip to their White River Trout Lodge that sleeps 12 and has a private boat launch.



STREAMSIDE
 Custom Rod & Guide Service
 www.michiganstreamside.com

Guided float trips on the AuSable, Manistee & other Northern Michigan Rivers
 Guided float trips and Lodging on Arkansas' White River
 Online Fly Fishing Equipment Sales - Custom built Fly Rods

Eric Swies
 248.345.0397
 ericswies@gmail.com

Speaker Meeting: Glenn Weisner - Oct 10, 2018



2017 – 2018 Officers

President:
Spencer Vanderhoof
svanderhoof@mi.rr.com

Vice President:
Bruce Strachan
bruced50402@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary:
Sybil Hunter
evening.hatch.mffc@gmail.com

Recording Secretary:
Steve Selinger
aquilasailboat@gmail.com

Treasurer:
Dave Nowicki
dn44213@gmail.com

Membership:
Jon Bada
jonbada@hotmail.com

Immediate Past President:
Scott Freeburg
MFFCClub@gmail.com

At-Large Directors:
Kathy Oehring
MFFCClub@gmail.com

Bob Niemi
niemi1@yahoo.com

Craig Summers
cksum61@gmail.com

Hatch Editor:
Sybil Hunter
evening.hatch.mffc@gmail.com

Webmaster:
Harry Briggs
habriggs@gmail.com



Summer Highlights

John Gouker

Fishing In The Manistee National Forest

By Sybil Hunter

“All of the Great Lakes trout can track their lineage back to the Little Manistee...Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York...all the Great Lakes states,” said John Gouker, (pronounced GOW-ker), Little Manistee River expert and guide hailing from D-Loop Outfitters located in the Little Manistee National Forest.

Whether walking, floating or kayaking the backwaters, “The Little Manistee is a great trophy trout fishery,” said Gouker, speaking of the 20 inch trout to be caught on the Manistee River from April to late June.

“Trout fishing is pretty solid for us,” said Gouker, “The river has not been stocked since 1976! All the fish are natural!”

On the whole, “The Little Manistee is typical for our fall fisheries,” said Gouker.

“The Little Manistee is a neat fishery. You have the opportunity to do some boat stuff and the opportunity to do some wading stuff, and you can also cast from the bank,” said Gouker.

Of note, “One quarter mile below Tippy Dam, it is very hard to do fly fishing in spring because the water is too deep.”

“On the Little Manistee, there is every hatch imaginable, and they just don’t eat anything. Most of them are going for other fish,” said Gouker. “I’m throwing six to eight inch streamers and they’re eating the fish that are eating the flies.”

“It’s a completely wild fishery with salmon and Coho — the rivers get flooded with fish.”

“In winter they switch over to mammals,” said Gouker. “Some of the big trout, they’re looking for big food...a six to eight inch muskrat even.”

“As far as rods go, use 4-7 wt. rods.”

“The Little Manistee has a very bizarre set up. It opens January first, then there’s a closure...in the early fall..for Steelhead eggs...then it opens up April first - the migratory fish window.”

“A 17 inch is a pretty average trout for the Little Manistee,” said Gouker. “Like the Pine, the Little Manistee is a wild trout fishery. There are many, many, many, many generations of trout in those rivers.”

On the Pine River, Gouker said take flies with “little rubbery legs you can twitch.”

Here are a few things to keep in mind: The water below the reservoir is cold. “If you see sand and it tends to drop, it tends to be clay. If you step in it, you’re going swimming,” otherwise, “You got gravel and you got some boulders.”

“I use nothing but swing rods,” said Gouker. When nymphing and swinging, on the Pine River, indicator fishing is best during spring.

“Sixteen to seventeen inches on the Pine is kinda typical.”

“September on the Pine is my favorite month. Once you get past Labor Day, there’s no one around. It can be fun.”

When fishing that area, Gouker said late May into early July is the best time to hunt trout, using dry flies, streamers (April, May, end of June), and nymphs. He also advised using streamers in October, November and December, “especially in the rivers that have migratory fish.”

“I like them big and dumb,” said Gouker of a large trout he caught four years in a row, hanging in the same location every year. Through slides, Gouker showed the unique thumbprint of the fish’s spots, year to year. “He grew an inch every year.” The trout was about seven years old when

Gouker last hooked him, then he disappeared. “The average lifespan of a fish is about eight years, and there is typically a 40% mortality rate during spawning.”

“In the fall, you start seeing things out later in the day.” Early in the year fish come out during the day, by mid-summer they come out at night, said Gouker.

“I spend most of my time fishing the rivers,” said Gouker. He still suggested sight fishing and wading the area lakes for Smallmouth. “I typically spend my time fishing top water fish May through October.”

“That (Tippy Dam Pond) would be our Smallmouth fishery. You’re gonna catch fish — there’s always something willing to eat a fly,” Gouker said.

“Most of our Smallmouth are migratory. Steelhead and Smallmouth swap out. You are catching them (Smallmouth) almost by accident...then suddenly they are gone. It’s like clockwork.”

Gouker suggested mid to late September for salmon fishing. “I spend most of my time on the Pine that time of year, nymphing,” but, “once the sun hits the water — forget it.”

Gouker advised 8-10 wt. rods, swinging with streamers. “We’ve had less Kings, but they are bigger. Steelhead have been real steady. The Coho salmon run was just stellar the Friday before Christmas. Last year they averaged 8-10 lbs. Coho tend to feed a little bit more like Steelhead — they eat Gobies.”

“Two to three years ago it was really solid fishing,” Gouker said of the migratory lake run Brown Trout, but “it changes with the years.” I had to switch to steel tippet.”

Tying up the evening, Gouker introduced Avery Kiefer, fellow D-Loop Outfitters guide, back up driver, and foodie who specializes in salmon fishing and winter Steelhead float trips.



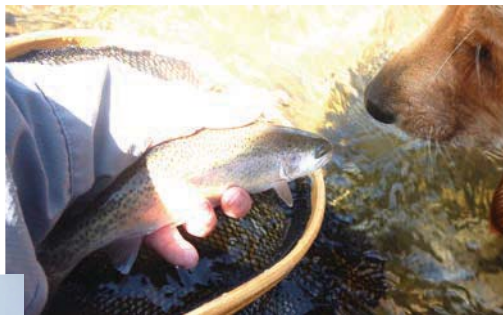
Summer Highlights

MFFC

Montana Madness



Scott Freeburg



The Official Mobile Fish Inspection Unit



Katie Haxton



Joyce Haxton

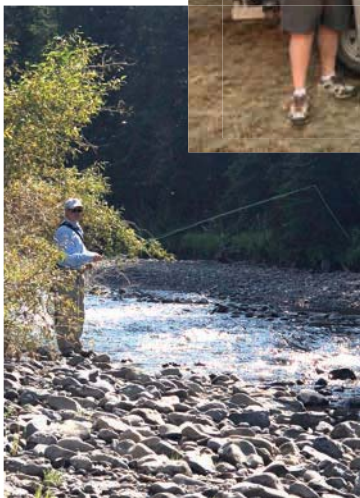
The Hunter Boys & Shelly Ehmer



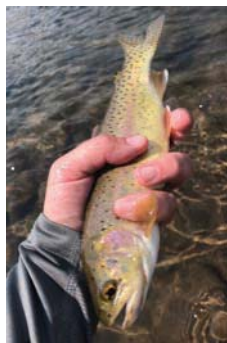
John Hunter



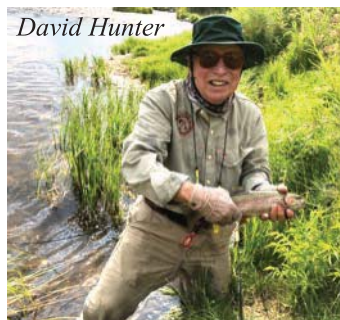
David Mayes, Rick Gosiewski & Al Haxton



Chris Hunter



Chris Hunter



David Hunter



Yellowstone traffic jam



Summer Highlights

Speaker Night

Catching The Action



Cath Sero - Reeling & Healing



Eric Swies



*Cath Sero & past volunteer
Jane Begley*



Eric Swies & Scott Freiburg



Tommy Lynch & Steve Isgrigg



Craig Summers & one big box of streamers



Summer Highlights

Cath Sero

The Healing Of Fly Fishing

By Sybil Hunter

"I cannot express the gratitude for that booth right in the middle of the [Midwest Fly Fishing Expo] show...." Said Cath Sero, president and Chief Caster of Reeling & Healing Midwest at the MFFC June speaker meeting. Through the MFFC Expo, and support of our group, we helped Sero to get the ball roll...er...fly, casting.

Sero grew up fishing the Pere Marquette and Muskegon Rivers before she could even walk. She practiced her casts diligently off the dock as a child, and later was told by Joan Wulff that she had a perfect cast. She's taught fly casting through Orvis for years.

"With every year of fly fishing that I have, it's not just a fish...the river...the environment...it's so much more than that," said Sero. "As some of you know... there is a power to the sport that is fly fishing."

"Close your eyes," said Sero, "Imagine your first fishing experience..." "What was it like?" "Who taught you that?" "Why did you continue?" Sero asked between long pauses. "Thank them...Thank them for that gift...and pass it along."

Reeling & Healing found its roots in Casting For Recovery, in the Grand Rapids area back in 1998. At that time, they managed to raise \$10,000 to teach female cancer patients how to fly fish. This brought Sero to a realization. "I wanted a retreat with a whole bunch of women, instead of just teaching. Next thing I know, I'm surrounded by a bunch of bald heads; they were all talking and chatting...!"

The Tower, as Sero is affectionately called by her volunteers, even brought her own posse to the presentation. "Right posse?" Sero made a shout out to them. "Right!" came echoing back as a bunch of hands went up in the air. "Our mission isn't to be a support group. It isn't to talk about cancer. It's to find yourself."

To do that, "You need to be in the river," said Sero. "To be in the river and feel that water around your legs is so healing."

Retreats start at Gates Lodge in Grayling on Sunday afternoon after everyone else checks out. Sunday through Tuesday, 10 to 14 people move into the 10 rooms reserved at Gates Lodge. "I want Josh to stay in business," said Sero. Kevin Feenstra, who guides on the Muskegon, also works with her group.

New Participant Retreats are completely donation funded. Reunion Retreats, on the other hand, are self funded. Thus far there have been some 70 plus retreats, 65 of which occurred at Gates Lodge, and 47 Reunion Retreats that occurred in Michigan. 95% of attendees are from Michigan, but a few have come in from Texas, parts of Canada, Arizona and even California.

(As the story goes, Rusty was none too sure about a female fly fisher and put Sero through her paces from the start. Sero, of course, passed muster and still marches on working with Josh who is now running Gates Lodge after Rusty passed away.)

Some women attendees have never roasted a marshmallow. "I'm amazed at how many women don't even know how

to swim," said Sero, "but they trust us...and they're darn sexy in their waders!"

Trust is true. Sero told of an attendee who was left alone on the river, only to hook her own thigh. Raced into the shop to remedy the situation, Rusty handed over a pair of (yes) RuSty pliers for Sero to pull it out. Everyone survived. (Everyone survived the night of the straight winds up north too, thanks to their trusty leader, The Tower.)

At times, disfigurement goes along with cancer, and with disfigurement, the judging perception of the world. "...but not at the retreat!" said Sero. "We do not let the outside take away from the inside!"

Why do they attend? They were introduced to fishing when they were young; it is a connection with nature; the grace of the sport; someone in their life fishes; and, of course, A River Runs Through It.

A participant's cost is \$30 and their travel to and from the venue. The \$30 includes room, board and food. Every weekend starts out with education in entomology.

How do people find the retreats? Word of mouth; care facilities; fishon.org; email; and scholarships.

Oh and volunteers. "We are always open for volunteers, even if you can only come up for part of the day," said Sero. Volunteers are needed to help both on land and in the water. Jane Begley has been known to show up and volunteer her massage services to attendees.

Sero closed by reading heartfelt correspondence from past participants, some with us still, some already gone.

To learn more about volunteering or to donate resources (supplies or money), visit Reeling & Healing Midwest at fishon.org.

"Take every class you can take, learn everything you can learn [about fly fishing]," said Sero. "The universe has given us a lesson here. Let's make the best of it!"



September Fly Of The Month

For More Action In The Water

Bunny Split

By Todd A. Schotts

For the fly of the month, I figured why not have a fly that will not only entice Pike, but Smallmouth/Largemouth Bass, and is known as the one of the “Deadly Dozen of Flies” for Musky! This fly of the month is the “Bunny Split” (aka Musky Bunny Twin Tail) tied by Captain Mark Dysinger.

Here is the fishing report for the creator of this fly: Captain Mark Dysinger resides in the Connecticut area and is owner/guide for Flyosophy Charters in the Long Island Sound area. He has fished the New England area for most of his life. Although Captain Mark is skilled in many angling techniques he is very accomplished in the art of fly fishing. Captain Mark has fished across North America and is recognized authority in Northern Pike fly fishing. Plus he has appeared in numerous print publications, on line publications and been featured in the *Eastern Fly Fishing Magazine* “Featured Innovative Fly Tyer” column.

The Bunny Split has a relative called the Double Bunny, by Scott Sanchez. The difference between the two is that on Scott’s pattern the strips were glued together by the hides. Captain Mark, however, feels this step is unnecessary as it impairs the mobility of the rabbit’s mobility in the water. The movement of this fly is from the tips of the strips and the length of the Zonkers. One of the things mentioned is that if you want a

successful Pike fly, that fly must have movement, and one of the best materials to generate that in water is rabbit. The Bunny Split uses two magnum Zonker strips for the tail, with flash material sandwiched between the Zonkers. Without gluing these strips they are able to swing, wiggle, and generally move freely in the water. To stop the tangling of the Zonkers, a wire loop guard is tied in at the back of the fly. Based on experience, Captain Mark came to the conclusion that more rabbit, does mean more pike...and that is how the Bunny Split actually came to us as a fly.

When tying this pattern, bend a short piece of wire to for a loop at the back of the hook, make sure the loop is on top of the hook shank and secure it in. With the Zonkers, you want it to be twice the length of the hook shank, tie it in with the hide against the side of the hook, about 1/3 of the hook shank back from the eye. Try to mix the color combinations for the Zonkers. He mentions white, yellow, and chartreuse as great colors; red accents add a lot to the fly. Don’t forget the olives, brown, and blacks for fly colors; he mentioned that he doesn’t use those colors, because the brighter colors are much more effective. When adding the Krystal Flash or Flashabou, keep it on top of the Zonker strip, such that the length extends a bit past the Zonker strips. After adding the marabou collar (four bunches), to complete the fly, build up a thread base in front of the marabou, add eyes, and then use 5-minute epoxy or UV glue to the head area and taper the head.

When fishing this fly, use a heavy rod because wet Zonkers and UV/Epoxied head creates a heavy, bulky fly. Captain Mark mentions using a weight forward floating line with a stout leader to help turnover the fly. This fly will sink at a very slow rate, which if fishing shallow

Bunny Split



HOOK: size 3/0 or 2/0 Dai-Riki #810, TMC 8089, Gamakatsu B10S, or Mustad C52

THREAD: 3/0 or Gel Spun

TAIL GUARD: Wire Loop – medium

LOWER TAIL: Magnum Zonker Strips

TAIL FLASH: Krystal Flash/Flashabou

UPPER TAIL: Magnum Zonker strip

COLLAR: 4 marabou feathers (wrapped around to form the collar)

EYES: Doll Eyes or other stick on eyes – size depends on thread head.

HEAD: 5 minute epoxy or UV Glue

waters, is great. But if you want to get the fly down over depths of 5 or 6 feet, either an intermediate or sink tip line is required. When retrieving this fly, just remember let the activity level of the fish dictate how long and fast each strip should be and how long you pause between strips, which determines how much you let the fly sink.

So get those bobbins slinging, and tie some of these very versatile flies for your favorite warm water species. Until next time, Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.



September Tyer Of The Month

Featured Member Tyer

Deadly To Brookies

Ray Geitka

Our new Featured Tyer organizer is Ray Geitka! He is graciously starting out the season as the first Featured Tyer.

My adventures with the "Muddler" go back many years. A trip to a TU National Convention had Brennan and I spot fishing rivers in both Vermont and New Hampshire. After trying several flies, we switched to Muddlers which proved deadly to Brookies.

On a trip to Alaska, the Guide picked out a Muddler from my fly box and pointed to a shallow riffle. I was amazed that I caught a 20 inch rainbow, completely hidden in scarcely an inch of water.

A humorous modification to the Muddler was presented to me by my friend Hal. He tied his Muddlers with a red yarn tail calling it the "Sore Ass Muddler." He attributed many fishing successes to this clever creation.

Years ago I found the book *River Fishing* by Dan Gapen in a used bookstore. In the book he describes how his father Don Gapen, of Nipigon River fame, created a fly to simulate a small bait fish somewhat like a Sculpin. Recently, I met Dan Gapen at an Ultimate Fishing Show and he gladly signed my book.

Tying the Muddler presented other challenges. How best to pack deer hair on a hook? How to best weight the fly to sink under water? How to artfully trim the deer hair to form the head? That last one is still a challenge!



The Classic Muddler Pattern:

HOOK: 4x Streamer hook; Mustad 3665A, Mustad 9674, etc. Sizes 2-12

THREAD: Dark Brown

BODY: Flat Gold Tinsel

TAIL: Mottled Turkey Feather, folded

UNDERWING: Squirrel Tail

FLARED WINGS: Mottled Turkey Feather segments

HEAD & COLLAR: Packed Deer Hair, trimmed to taper

*COMMON MODIFICATIONS:

- Weight the body with non-toxic wire to sink the fly
- Use Gold Sparkle Braid for the body
- Tail material can be varied yarns, etc.

TYING TIPS:

- Wind non-toxic wire about 1/3 back from hook eye. Secure with a drop of head cement.
- Tie a small folded section of turkey feather to form the tail, wrapping the body material over the remaining feather section.
- Add on either side of body swept back sections of matching turkey feather to form wings.
- Pack and flare several fingers of deer hair on head.
- Artfully trim deer hair tapered to form head and collar.

2018-2019 Dates

Meetings

2018 - 2019

Sept: 12th Speaker Meeting, 19th Board Meeting, 26th Activities Meeting.

Oct: 10th Speaker Meeting, 17th Board Meeting, 24th Activities Meeting.

Nov: 7th Speaker Meeting, 14th Board Meeting, 21st Activities Meeting.

Dec: 5th Speaker Meeting, 12th Board Meeting, 19th Activities Meeting.

Jan: 9th Speaker Meeting, 16th Board Meeting, 30th Activities Meeting.

Feb: 6th Speaker Meeting, 13th Board Meeting, 20th Activities Meeting.

March: 6th Activities Meeting, 13th Board Meeting, 20th Speaker Meeting

April: 3rd Speaker Meeting, 10th Board Meeting, 17th Activities Meeting

May: 8th is Board Meeting; 15th Banquet

New Members

Welcome!

Welcome to the new members that joined MFFC over the summer! Watch for them at upcoming meetings and events! New members include: Don & Deborah of Grayling; Erin Chiappetta of Riverside, CT; Dale Hall of Dryden; James Leever of Commerce Twp.; Keith McCormack of Rochester Hills; Denis and Caleb Thomas of Jackson; John Gouker of Wellston; Jamie Platt of Ann Arbor; George Hubbell of Milford; Pete Roth of Howell; Marwan Abouljoud of Grosse Pointe; and Glen Young of Petoskey!

Activities Meeting: November 21, 2018



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

John Pinto's

Sand In My Shoe

There I was.....it was 1999 and I was heavily engaged in putting together my fly tying/fishing tackle assembly facility in Nicaragua. Factory space was procured, girls were trained, all legal documents signed and I began to wonder about buying a car. Down the road was a blue, three-year old Daewoo Fino that I was told the lady wanted \$5,000 but might take \$4,000. I offered her \$3,000, she took it and I owned my first Nicaraguan car.

Upon hearing of my new acquisition, my fishing pals Stuart Padgett and Julio Rodriguez did an Otter and Boon scene from the classic movie *Animal House*. But rather than holler out "road trip" they screamed "fishing trip!"

I said, "Fine. But where?"

Stuart replied, "Utila. The smallest of the Bay Islands off the Honduras coast."

We left the next morning embarking on an 11-hour drive around Managua and straight up the Pan Am highways past the major towns of Sebaco, Estelli, Ocotal and then the border crossing at Los Manos.

Once through the crossing we headed up to Tegucigalpa, the Capitol of Honduras where we stopped to visit with Stuart's father and sister. Stuart's father is actually the Coach of the Honduran Olympic Archery Team, except.....there is NO Honduran Olympic Archery team. But if they ever find enough Honduran

archers to make up a team, I know who the coach will be.

Five hours later and nearing dusk, we pulled into the coastal town of La Ceiba where we grabbed a hotel room, dinner and tried to sleep through the blaring music from all the night clubs for which La Ceiba is famous. Oh, to be young, handsome, a little wealthy and living in La Ceiba!

The next morning we flew out to Utila, landed, checked into a hotel that caters to divers and went searching for a fishing guide. Everybody recommended Allan Whitefield who we hired for the next two days. It was easy to tell by looking at Allan that his ancestors were English buccaneers who pirated these parts several centuries prior. The only thing missing was the ear ring and parrot on his shoulder.

We jumped into Allan's boat and cut through the canal that traversed the island from south to north. Allan told me to troll a baitfish pattern while we motored through the canal as I might pick up a snook. When we broke through to the other side (into Whitefield Bay!) I felt a jarring hit. I looked at Allen and he replied "tarpon." This northside of Utila is teeming with baby tarpon hanging out in the mangroves.

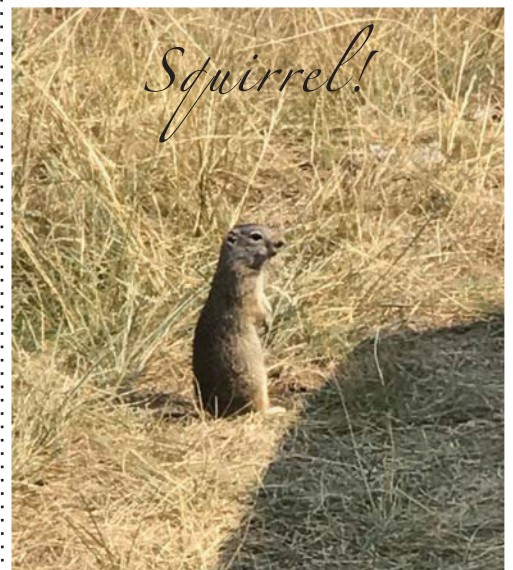
We anchored up the boat and began to walk the beach to the right. The entire end of the beach was in shade but Allen still spotted two tailing fish. I went ahead and waded out to casting range. I laid out tan Crazy Charlie, gave a few strips and a fish was on. What I figured was a four pound bonefish turned out to be a three-pound permit. Hmmm! Only two more fish for the grand slam and I already have the hardest one.

I walked back to the boat, grabbed the

fly box, switched to a baitfish pattern and began working the mangroves near the channel. I could see a school of baby tarpon moving back and forth and finally they came within casting range. I landed a seven pound baby tarpon and now thoughts turned to catching a bonefish. Stuart and Julio knew the importance of the grand slam and began spotting fish for me. Try as I might, a bonefish would not surrender.

Our day was ending and I had this nagging thought of coming so close only to be turned away by my favorite fish. Finally, in the rays of the setting sun, Allan called me to the end of the beach where the waves were breaking on the shore. Each time the waves receded, the bonefish tails came up. Lots of fish but no takers. Like always, I was working the edges so as not to spook the entire school. No luck. Finally, and almost out of desperation, I cast right into the middle of the school. Three strips and "wham!"

I was never so happy to land a two pound bonefish!





Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events

Michigan Fly Fishing Club's

Attention Tyers

Attention: ALL FLY TYERS! The Featured Tyer program for the upcoming MFFC year is being planned. If you have a favorite fly, have fished a favorite fly, know of a favorite fly, or can tie thread on a hook for a favorite fly, share your expertise with the group! It's really not that difficult a task! The Featured Tyer night is the Club Activities meeting of each month. If you have an interest in participating, send your fly pattern and desired month to tie, to me: Ray Geitka, FLYFSHRAY@COMCAST.NET

November Guest Speaker

Glenn Weisner

Glenn Weisner will be presenting 50 Pictures - 50 Tips To Improve Your Fly Fishing at the October 10 Speaker Meeting. Glenn started fly tying in seventh grade as a science fair project. His fly fishing resume includes: Ohio, Michigan, Yellowstone National Park, Montana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, England, Ireland, Florida, Bahamas, Smokey Mountains, Iceland and Bosnia.

Let's All Go To

The Library

Looking to improve your casting skills? Join one of our certified casting instructors during activity night in the gym.....OR.....seek out tips from Joan Wulff, Ed Jaworski, Lefty Kreh or Mel Krieger.....they're all in the "Joe Sattler Memorial Library," available at each club meeting during the school year in Livonia.

Come check out some of the recently donated books, including Jason Randall's new book "Nymph Masters" featured at the banquet last Spring.....or some of the true classics on fly fishing strategies and fly tying. When you stop by to see Allen or Jerry, remember that MFFC patches, decals, pins and license plate holders are all availablestill at the phenomenally low price of just five bucks each!

*Montana fishing
Relax in Big Sky Country
Be one with the fish.*



Scouting Out The

Next Gen



I ran into this young angler during his annual May visit to Gates' Au Sable Lodge. She was all dressed up and anxious to get in the river!

Her name is Katie, and she was hanging out with her parents. Her brother and a friend of his had camped at Keystone upstream, and were fishing no-doubt.

I think she was wishing she was there with them...!

-As Reported by: Spence Vanderhoof





Michigan Fly Fishing Club
PO BOX 530861
Livonia, MI 48153