



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Covid Edition 2020

My Critter 'Cuda

By John Long

Let me preface this article with the exchange in which I received it. John Long approached me at an activities meeting. He said he had an article, pulled out four pages of typed text and asked if I could print it in *The Evening Hatch*. At the time, not really knowing him well, I expressed the standard concern that I typically had limited space in *The Hatch*. He tried his pitch again, I asked him for an electronic copy that I could edit down for size. John being John, smiled, put it back in the envelope, sealed the envelope, then handed it to me.

Home it went, to later be set in my *Hatch* editor file.

Fast forward to the Covid Pandemic in which we find ourselves...as a last act as MFFC's Corresponding Secretary, I felt the draw to use my House Arrest time to compile my contacts over the past seven years as editor and two years as Corresponding Secretary to give to Jim Kieth — our incoming Corresponding Secretary. Two thirds of the way through the box, an envelope simply labeled "Hatch Article" in someone's handwriting that was neither Chris' nor mine, appeared.

Needless to say, here I am manually typing in the entirety of the story from those original four pages handed to me

years ago. I wasn't going to type this, I said, I was waiting for an e-file, I said. I was going have to edit this down, I said. Well John, once again, you got the last laugh! And yes, we do believe you!
- Sybil Hunter

It was the second day of four-and-a-half fishing days on Mayaguana Island in the southern Caribbean. We were after bonefish. Pat Brazzil, a buddy from the Michigan Fly Fishing Club, and I were staying at the delightful Baycaner Lodge and our host was John Pinto, a long-time friend also from the Club.

We had gotten into the routine of wade-fishing the flats at low tide at various locations around the isJand, then driving to the Curtis Creek lagoon area and fishing the high tide from canoes. We would paddle or pole the canoes around to various flats areas, drop anchor and then wade around the flats.

The Curtis Creek lagoon is somewhat circular in shape, a good half-mile in diameter and dotted with about a dozen small mangrove islands. Quite a bit of the lagoon is wadeable in scattered areas, thus the canoes for getting around. The tidal channel, Curtis Creek, has a very well-defined channel about 35 feet wide and neck-deep at high tide and deeper at the mouth of the bay.

We had fished low tide that morning
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MFFC Calendar



**Canceled Through May
Activity & Speaker Meetings**
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

Canceled In April
Trout Tun-up 4/2; **Public School**
4/11; **Scout School** 4/18;
Trout Opening Weekend 4/23-27
Trout Opener 4/25/2020

Canceled In May
Youth School 5/2; **Dick Schott**
New Member Outing 5/6-9;
Smallmouth Outing 5/14-17;
MFFC Banquet 5/20

Summer Speaker Meeting Dates
Dependant on Covid-19 Status
June 17, 2020 - VisTaTech Center
July 15, 2020 - VisTaTech Center
August 19, 2020 - VisTaTech Cntr



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at Abrahams Bay until about 11:30. We ate our lunches while riding to Curtis Creek in the lodge's van. The high tide was at its peak- perfect timing for fishing the lagoon. That's how you fish for bonefish on Mayaguana Island: Spend low tide on the flats at various places around the Island before boogying to Curtis Creek for high tide.

That afternoon, I decided I wanted some alone time and opted to wade along the canal fly casting for anything that would take a fly. Most of the time, I prefer fishing with friends but once in a while, flying solo is nice too. I wanted take some time to smell a few flowers and shoot some photos.

I watched the two canoes shove off with the four other anglers in our group and began casting into the canal. An occasional blue runner would take a shrimp fly and it was a very relaxing interlude, but bonefish was what we were all after. It is not unusual to see small Barracuda, sharks, large sea turtles, and of course bonefish in the lagoon.

About a hundred yards from shore, right along the edge of the channel, is a circular sand bar with about 30 feet exposed and dry at high tide. Beyond this sand bar is a quarter-moon shaped flat about 100 yards wide and perhaps a quarter-mile long. Here the channel begins to widen and shallow out.

I waded out to the sandbar, fishing my way along in the thigh deep, gin-clear water. The March sun was hot and felt wonderful after our cold Michigan winter. Looking around the undeveloped shoreline and seeing no one, I stripped down and went for a delightful and refreshing brief swim in the channel. I was still buck naked, drying off in the sun when an eight foot nurse shark came wandering up the channel. I quickly

grabbed my fly rod and made a cast, but the fly line splash spooked the shark into a burst of speed across the channel. I felt ridiculous casting a fly rod while naked and the thought of a low back cast was horrifying. Anyway, I was soon dry enough to put on my shorts, shirt, socks and water shoes. I began wading out into the bay.

With the bright sun at my back, the clear water and the absolutely white sand, it was a delightful wade. I was really enjoying my jaunt looking for bonefish and was out a long way when I realized there were no more crab holes in the sand. No crab holes, no bonefish. So I started back toward the sand bar.

I was about 50 yards from the safe and shallow ankle-deep water when I noticed a dark shape coming out of the channel about 75 yards away, heading directly at me. "Hot-damn!" I thought, "A small school of bonefish heading right to me!" When it got closer, I realized it wasn't bonefish and thought it was a shark. Disappointed, I continued walking slowly.

What I thought was a shark about 5-6 feet long came about 20 feet behind me and began swimming in what seemed like a figure-eight pattern, seemingly "sizing me up" while continuously getting closer. Then I saw through the surface chop and knew it was no shark. It was a barracuda -- the largest barracuda I had ever seen or even heard about. It didn't seem aggressive, but was slowly getting closer by zigzagging behind me as I kept on walking. Now, I know enough not to run from a predator, but I still had a powerful urge to bolt into a high step run for the shallows, but I stayed calm and did just the opposite. I stopped. I was perhaps 50 feet from safe water as the critter kept closing in behind me.

The fish then circled and moved out next to me and then just stopped about 15

feet away. I didn't know what the hell to do and began to get a bit alarmed. I was pondering my situation when I realized this "motionless" beast was somehow sliding sideways and was now only about 10 feet away! It didn't appear to have moved a muscle but had closed in at an oblique angle to the out-going tide. The big black silver-dollar sized eye was intimidating as hell and I began to get *really* scared even though I was heavily armed with a pair of nippers and long-nose pliers.

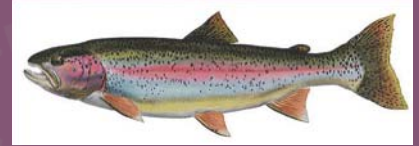
So what do you do with only a 9-foot fly rod and a creature with enough speed and size to catch and slash just about anything that swims? After I released some methane into the ozone layer, my superior survivor skills kicked in and I did the only thing I could think of, I tried to poke it in the eye with my fly rod.

I didn't want to really hurt the beast, but I certainly didn't want to spend any more time getting to know it, and was really hoping it would move on its way. The expected swirl and crunch to my fly rod tip top didn't happen, but my poking worked! I don't know if I ever made contact with its eye, but after five or six jabs, the fish circled out and away then got behind me again about 15 feet back. Was it getting ready to make a run at me? I had no idea. I hoped not.

Some people have since told me the fish was just curious and others, including our local guide, say that when barracuda do that sideways thing, they are gearing up for a run and a hit. He also told me a diver (the Mayaguanan's are diving fishermen) should never use a tethered spear if going for barracuda because they will figure out how they are tethered and attack. A wading angler has a good chance of being attacked also. We did see a number of local Mayaguana fishermen with crisscrossing scars on their necks and chests, possible
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MFFC Business



Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Board Meeting February 12, 2020

Rollcall

Present: Nowicki, Strachan, K. Oehring, Selinger, Summers, Bada, Mayes
Absent: Niemi, S. Hunter
Guests: C. Hunter, D. Oehring

Approval of Minutes - Approved
Approval of Agenda - Approved

Officer's Reports

President - Nowicki

* Discussed how to encourage more volunteers. It was suggested Constant contact could be used to try to get more response. Another online signup program, Signup Genius was also mentioned. Little known about this program so Nowicki said he would send out the link to Board members. It was agreed we should try to use Constant Contact first to see if this improved response.

* We are still awaiting State approval of our Raffle license.

* Expo website is up, but still needs more info added. An example: the speaker schedules are still not included. Briggs, S. Hunter and Haley need to get together to update.

* Nowicki passed out activities calendar for the Board members, showing annual activities the Board must complete.

Vice President - Strachan

* John Pinto requested the Club aid his family in several funeral things and purchase some materials he had for the Saltwater activities. This was left for discussion at next month's meeting.
* 2020 Trout Tune-up: Payments for the Yurt and insurance are in progress. A suggestion to include non-Club members was rejected due to liability.

Treasurer - Oehring

* Treasurer's report accepted as submitted.

Corresponding Secretary - Hunter Absent.

Membership - Niemi

Current: 351 active paid members

Events & Outings

2020 Expo: Booths are sold out. Pins on order, held up because of Corona Virus issues in China. Post cards mailed today.

New Business - None

Old Business - None

Visitor Comments: None

Adjournment: 9:26 p.m. **Rollcall**

Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Board Meeting March 18, 2020

Rollcall

Present: Nowicki, Strachan, K. Oehring, Niemi, Hunter, Selinger, Summers, Bada, Mayes, Vanderhoof
Guests: K. Lipp

Approval of Minutes - Approved
Approval of Agenda - Approved

General Discussion

Clarenceville Meetings canceled through May.

They are owed \$1,200 for meetings already held.
Youth School canceled, however we received a \$191 contribution that will be retained.

Dues Request: It was decided to make a special request to former members who have not yet paid their dues for the 2019-2020 membership year.

Trout Opener is still shown as proceeding. We need to determine current status to determine if we need to show an expenditure for this event.

2020 Banquet will be canceled. 4 tickets sold and will be refunded.

Canceled Expo Event will return 100% of Vendor Booth Fees.

Freezing All Conservation/Education Grants for the remainder of this fiscal year. This year's funds will be held for next year's use.

2020 Expo Pins will be sold when Club meetings resume. We will investigate mail sales since we have received a few requests from non-members. K.Lipp will investigate cost of shipping & packaging.

New Board Members identified for election were approved by motion by acclamation, since there are 8 candidates and 8 positions.

Next Board Meeting will be Tuesday April 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.. via telephone conference call.

Donations: Two donations were received after the cancellation of the Expo. The Board would like to acknowledge Paul & Carol Rose and Ray Schmidt for their donations.

VisTaTech Center, our summer venue, is willing to work with us if we need to cancel summer meetings, even with the contract already signed.

D. Mayes provided information on using Pay Pal for donations and other possible monetary dealings with members, the public, and Expo Vendors.

Visitor Comments: none

Adjournment: 9:01 p.m.



2019 – 2020 Officers

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April Fly Of The Month

Covid Inspired

Griz's Frankensteiner Hex

By Todd Schotts

For this month's Fly of the Month, I had a pattern all picked out, but then I was informed The Evening Hatch was going Covid-19. So the fly I had picked out was put on the back burner for another issue. I put on my face mask and latex gloves, heading back to research flies more carefully. I was looking for what my vision of what a fly that would represent that was fitting the "Covid-19," sort of like the Zombies on the "Walking Dead" TV show, post apocalyptic type of a fly pattern that just fits in the mutant type of conditions in which we find ourselves — a fly pattern that was in so much disarray, as risky, and deadly to fish as this pandemic virus is to us. There are so many mutant and disarray fly names and patterns out there, but nothing that I felt would work. Then one night taking a break from the tiring research; I was finishing up an order of flies and there it was in my trusty vise... under the spot light of my tying light, showing itself off in all its mutant apocalyptic beauty. So here is my vision of Covid-19 of a fly; my hex pattern "Griz's Frankensteiner Hex."

A bit of history on this unique pieced together fly pattern follows. It was created

from parts/features I liked from four or five different Hex patterns. Writing this, I am actually trying to remember the exact year I actually created this from the madness of my grizzly tying den lab....It was around winter of 1995 from according to my super secret notes. I will admit there are so many effective hex nymph patterns out there, but I really wanted one of my own. From studying the different patterns, I took this idea, and that idea, along with my vision to create a unique pattern. After much testing and tweaking, I finally had my Hex Nymph Pattern — I guess you could say "IT'S ALIVE!" But with such a cool fly pattern that produced tight lines like crazy, I needed a name that fitted it, something that would add to the wow factor. Back in those days, I use to watch Pro Wrestling and there was a tag team from Michigan that had a move called "Steiner Recliner," toss in old time classic horror movies that I really enjoy...you could say the madness had my wheels turning. One night after a few adult beverages, with that wrestling move name rolling around in my head while I was watching the movie, "Frankenstein" from 1931 with Boris Karloff and, BAM I had the name!!! Like the fly that used parts of few, the name did the same.

This pattern is an easy-medium level tie. To start out, the main feature of this fly is the Emu Feathers. They represent the gills of a Hex Nymph, a critical aspect that makes this fly work. When the Emu feather is in the moving water it actually moves like the gills. I mention in the recipe that, there is an option to add weight to the fly. What I like doing is adding it to one side of the hook, usually away from me. This will create the wobbling of the fly, like Gary Lafontaine's "Drunken Sailor." Moving to

Griz's Frankensteiner Hex



Hooks: Daiichi 1730 (bent hook) or Daiichi 1720, TMC 5263 (straight 4x)
Sizes 6, 8, & 10

Tail: McFly Foam (Chartreuse or Lite Yellow)

Rib: Medium UTC Ultra Wire Copper or Hot Yellow

Body: Lite Yellow McFly Foam or Lite Yellow Antron Dubbing

Gills: Emu Feathers Natural

Wingcase: Pheasant Soft Hackle

Thorax: Golden Stone Dubbing

Eyes: Large Mono Eyes (sizes 6 & 8)
Medium (Size 10)

Optional: Weight .015 or .020

the thread, I highly recommend using a light weight thread, something like a 70 denier or 8/0 thread so as not to build up too much thread wrap base. When I first starting tying this, I was using a Dai Riki 700b hook which is a streamer hook that is bent downward from the middle. Now that the Dai Riki



February Featured Tyer

Follow-up

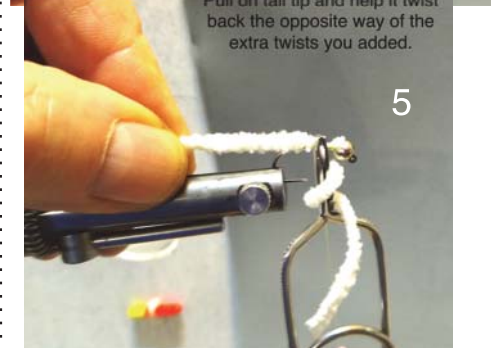
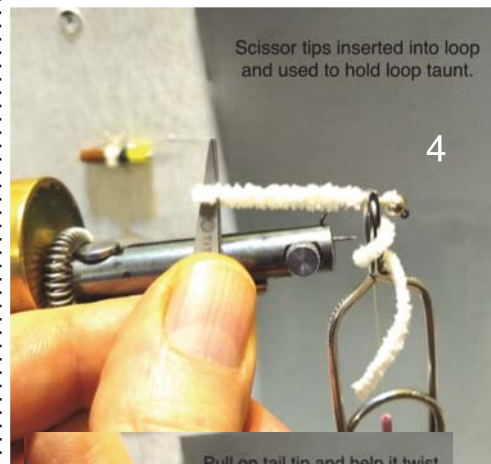
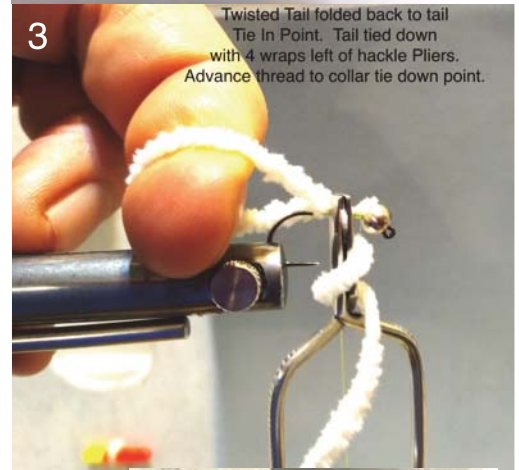
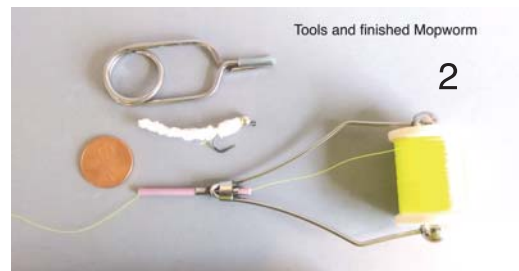
hooks are harder to get, you can use Daiichi 1720 which is the same style hook, or take a TMC 5263 and very gently bend in a downward motion from the middle of the hook. When you do this, do not bend all in one move as you will snap the hook. The best way is to bend gently, little by little to get that downward front.

When tying the body under the gills, I like using McFly Foam's Lite Yellow, and wrap it forward after I create the shuck in the back. I did mention you can use dubbing, but I like using just 1 piece of material for the shuck in the back and body. For tying the gills in, lay the feather right on top, and use the wire as you wrap forward to hold the feather down. But be very careful on not trapping any of the fibers. You may get a couple trapped, that's okay, but you do not want a whole bunch trapped. And be careful the feather doesn't rotate to the side; it needs to be right on top. If some of the feather is bigger in areas trim it down to equal on both sides. Moving toward the front now, once you get everything tied in on the front; come back and coat the soft hackle feather. This will give it a shine and reinforce the feather and thorax. Back when I created this, I just used head cement, but now I use UV Glue Thin. Either way will work; it is just your preference.

When fishing this fly, depending on water conditions (flow & depth), is how it is fished. For the matching fly rod, I like using my 5 or 6 weight. Here's my reasoning: I hooked into a huge Brown one year on my 4 weight and you could say the bell for the fight went "Ding-Ding" and the fight was on. We went a few rounds and the winner wasn't me as my rod tip snapped. As for the fly lines, I would use a Floating Line in standard and low water conditions. If the waters are

faster and higher than normal, I will use an Intermediate Fly Line. Be careful with Intermediate lines as the water temperature does play a big roll with these lines. If to cold some will curl like a pig tail, while the cold water ones are not really good in warmer water; they become sticky. It is always best to check with the fly shop and see what they recommend for the conditions you are fishing.

So get those masks and gloves on, and get those bobbins slinging!! Okay maybe no gloves when tying. Seriously though, everyone out there please stay safe and healthy. We can wait another day, week, or month to fish; the fish will always be there. If we get this Covid-19 we may not be. Until next month, Tight Lines & Snazzy Flies.



Mopworm
Dan's



Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Saunterer

Al The Hackleman

What a Spring

Sitting at home now and being responsible and staying healthy. Thinking about what a wonderful Spring it is. The snow is pretty well gone right now, but the guy on the TV says we might get new snow this weekend. Our EXPO had to be cancelled. Our Opening Day Memorial Celebration had to be cancelled. Even the group that stays down at Riverview Lodge had to cancel. So its really been a tough Spring and sure does not look like it will be a great summer.

So besides being a good responsible person and keeping my distance from others I have been sort of planning on what we can do for fishing this year. We have heard that folks are not supposed to be in boats together because of the 'social distancing' guidelines. Now I don't know that is true, but have heard that if both folks in a boat have the same address then its ok because they live in the same house. So I guess that Joyce and I could get into a boat and be ok if we get stopped by the authorities. But we don't do the boat thing so I guess we are safe anyway.

Obviously being out fishing a river is acceptable with 'social distancing' so we are making plans to visit some of our spots and doing some fishing this year. All of us we have some spots that we just love and have missed during the long winter. But this year we are really doing like Rusty Gates always said "Look for the small blue lines on a map." So we have started looking at maps and have found a few "blue lines" that look like

they might just be some fun adventures. The plans are now for us to get our car loaded with all the paraphernalia that we all take with us, make sure the map is in the car, and get out and look at new spots to fish and explore. We currently have about six spots noted and since we cannot go out for dinner or a drink, we are still looking for more new spots. We have even noted some lakes that we have heard about, for Bass fishing, to our list. Float tubes are a wonderful invention and we have made some plans for getting ours ready for a float tube season too.

So I ask you, when was the last time you fished the Huron River for Smallmouth Bass? I remember being invited to join a group of MFFC folks that fished the Huron every week during the summer. We went out toward Ann Arbor and went to a different access spot each week. One evening each week we got out there and had a total great time. Like all the fishing, being around others is part of the fun. Maybe this season that part of the fun will have to be calmed down a bit, but its still worth the effort to make the drive out to the river and enjoy the fishing. And before you go maybe look at a map and find some of the 'blue lines' that feed the Huron. I bet some of those lines hold fish that would enjoy eating a fly. And the exploration would make for a nice time too.

And how about some float tube time on the lakes. Again, the distances are reasonable and the fun is great. I know there was a group that did the Brighton area in float tubes, maybe this is the year for more folks to give that a try. All of the lakes in that area are full of fish that love to yank a fly and fight like crazy.

About the only comment that might seem negative is to stay away from access areas that are busy. We don't need big groups of folks enjoying our fishing spots, so maybe that will force us to find new spots to fish. With all the streams, rivers and lakes in this state we have thousands of possibilities. Look at a map, decide on the new spot, and let your buddies know about the plans. Stay safe and enjoy the new opportunities and fishing spots. And make notes for each spot, so the fun can be repeated is desired. After a sort of bummer Spring we can turn this Summer into a real good experience. Get out and go fishing.

And stay safe and healthy. Good luck.

*Thankfully, Michigan is blessed with many lakes. We have an opportunity to sneak off to those lakes and our favorite little honey fishing spot that only you know about. We too have many access points to launch that rowboat or kayak for a quiet day of just enjoying the lake or river near home. Get out but stay safe. We have to be as tough as the problem we are all now facing. Tight lines to all.
Wayne Glessner*





Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Critter 'Cuda Continuation 1

evidence of that type of attack.

Anyway, I started walking backward toward the sand bar while continuously poking at the fish as it followed me just out of reach of my rod tip. I made it to the safe water at the sand bar with my heart pounding.

But I wasn't off the hook yet.

This fish was not ready to abandon its quarry. It moved out into the channel about 30 feet and started the now-familiar cruising back and forth in front of me. So what do you do with an 8 weight fly rod rigged for bonefish with a 12 pound fluorocarbon tippet and a size 6 shrimp pattern? I did what any fly fisherman would do. I started casting to the fish. What the heck, I was on safe terrain and was brave again. I am, after all, a fly fisherman. It took several casts to get the fly in the right zone because of its erratic swimming pattern.

When the fly landed about a foot in front of its nose, the barracuda calmly, but deliberately, took the fly. Gotcha! So much for stalking me! I yanked back hard and set the hook.

I've caught bonefish before and am always amazed at the incredible speed they have. I was not prepared however, for the speed with which my critter 'cuda and wading companion turned and headed across the channel and onto the far side flats. My fly line vanished and morphed into backing. The run was not only the fastest I'd ever encountered, but the most violent. This guy was not pleased at the reversal of fortune. I could almost feel the fish's hatred. I figured his teeth would cut my leader in about 10 seconds, but at least I'd have the experience of an emotional ride from the low of total fright to the high of having the upper hand in just a few seconds. What a rush!

The first time the fish jumped (and every time) it was not a vertical jump, but instead was about a 20-foot broad jump 4 feet in the air. The flats were too shallow for vertical leaps and this thing didn't slow down but was airborne and mad. This was my first good look at it and my jaw must have dropped. I know my stomach did. This fish was not only the fastest thing I had ever hooked but also the biggest. It was at least 12 to 15 inches wide from belly to backbone.

With careful pumping and side pressure I managed to get most of my fly line onto my reel again and the fish back into the channel. I kept expecting to hear the sickening pop of my leader.

The only word to describe this fish's fight is violence. Pure, utter violence.

The fish made another Jurassic run to the flats like the first one, and broad jumped two more times. Again, with side pressure and careful pumping I got the fish back into the channel. I was beginning to fantasize that I might actually land this critter but then thought, "How?" and "With what?"

It's funny how your mind can work. My camera was in a Zip-loc bag in my shirt pocket but I had no time to get it out. No way could I one-hand my rod long enough to get a camera out and set it up, yet, I had the time and temerity to dream about actually landing this thing by tailing it and dragging it up on the sand and being on the cover of fly fishing magazines. What a joke!

The fish's two runs and my getting it back into the canal took about 10 minutes or so and I guess this particular Barracuda decided he had enough playing around with me and took off again on a run that made the others seem like mere practice. My rod was just about yanked out of my

hands and that's when the leader parted. I saw the fish do one more leap of freedom about 100 yards away as I stood there trembling and not wanting to move. I finally reeled up and could see my tippet had broken about 12 inches above the fly. I didn't want this to be over yet!

Fortunately, it wasn't!

As I stood there too grown up to cry, and too dumb to cut my losses and head home, I ran through the event in my mind trying to figure out if I had done anything wrong fighting this fish. Then, unbelievably, the damn thing came back! There it was, swimming in the channel about 25 feet away as if it was taunting me,

"Go ahead smart-ass, I dare you put a toe in the water!" I literally fumbled for my fly box and it took 2 or 3 trembling attempts to get another fly tied on, just in time to see my critter 'cuda cruising out of the channel. I willed it to come back, but it was gone. My battle of a lifetime was over.

Later, when the other guys returned in the canoes I told my story but no one except Pat Brazzil wanted to believe me. Pat knows me well enough to know I don't lie about stuff like this. The other guys were doubtful, but the next day two of them rigged up with wire leaders and canoed out into the channel and trolled around for several hours and hooked nothing.

When you are on a trip with Pat Brazzil and John Pinto, be prepared to have a lot of fun and to laugh a lot. I took a lot of good natured ribbing from Brazzil. I mimicking with his hand a Barracuda sticking its head out of the water and asking, "Where's John Long?" Brazzil has since named that sand bar, Long Island.

The day after the big battle, he even saved the aluminum foil from his sandwiches and wrapped it around my
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Michigan Fly Fishing Club



Critter 'Cuda Continuation 2

ankles, "To help you find more barracudas!" Now, is that being a true friend or what? On and on, they continued to bust my chops. But it's fun and it does take the edge off losing such a magnificent fish. How that critter still haunts me!

Regrets? Yes. I have two. One, I wish one of the other guys had been close enough to hear me yell or at least see the fish jump. It really is nice to have a witness-sometimes to remind you you're really not over exaggerating. Two, I wish I had been using one of my own bamboo rods and of course, had landed the fish. I had been using my own hollow-butt 8 wt. cane rod up until that afternoon, but a new graphite backup rod happened to be in my hands for a tryout that afternoon.

The fish we remember most are the ones we lose. Some day, I will return to Mayaguana, and yes, I will have a rod rigged with a wire leader and you bet I'll be looking for another critter 'cuda...and maybe he just might be expecting me...

[For more info about Mayaguana, and its isolated and uncrowded bonefishing, contact John Pinto at 586-445-8874 or e-mail: bnlfsh2@wowway.com.]

Addendum

Pat and I returned to Mayaguana with Pinto in February. My big 'cuda had acquired the name Herbie and of course the first fishing I did was trying to catch Herbie, but to no avail. Not a sign of him. About two days later, we saw a local guide we know (Scully Cartwright). He informed me that Herbie had been caught by a local fisherman with a hand line. I tried desperately to learn if someone had taken a photo, but no such luck. Herbie was cut up and sent to Nassau to be sold. Not a major event for a Mayaguanan. Scully said the 'cuda was about eight feet long and another local said it was ten feet long. I guess I'll never know for sure Herbie's true size, but perhaps he was close to the world record of 85 pounds, of course I'd like to think he was.

Members On The Fly

Social Distancing



Bill Cusamono and I (Pat Breen) went fly fishing last week following the strict social distancing guidelines. We each had our own boat on the lake in my back yard. Couple pike perch bass and a crappie. Looking forward to time on a river.





Michigan Fly Fishing Club



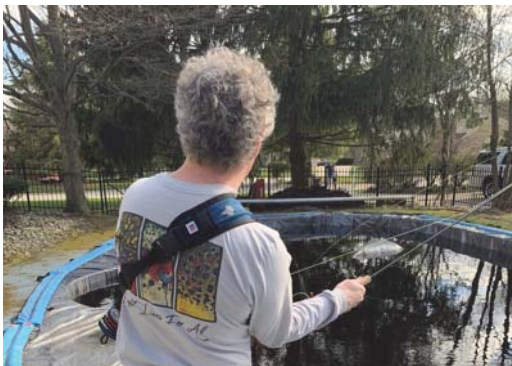
Covid Shout Outs

My family and I are okay.
Tying flies to keep busy.
Have to rely on online ordering for supplies.
Stay safe and healthy,
Tom Green

I took an early layoff from Cabela's to keep others working but 2 weeks ago they closed Cabela's and Bass Pro. Tell everyone I said hi from Texas and to WASH YOUR HANDS!!
Rick Gokenbach

Doing well down here in FL, looking forward to MI return soon, we hope.
Frank Kunick

The Mikkola family is fine. My wife Pam didn't realize how wonderful trout opener really was until she found out I'd miss it this year. I think she's praying for deer opener already. Prayers and good health, Arty



*Chris Hunter
Any Water Will Do*

All ok with Tom Hector, wife and families in Kalamazoo and Denver!

Tippy Dam is closed to fishing and access. Boats from downstream are motoring up to below the coffer dam. I walked in close enough to watch for a while and fish below the last No Trespassing, Access Closed signs. No body hooked anything. The day before I got 3 out of 6 on White Mopworm jig mostly but also a Fox Fur jig. They were 24, 29, and 31 inches. I lost some big ones.

We may get to go back in there when there are an unusually large numbers of hungry unpressured drop back fish in a very competitive situation. Maybe you could get a steelhead on a dry fly.

EggmanFlies.com is open. I am still working on it. 2 of the fish from 10 days ago are on there under mop chenille or steelhead jigs.

Dan Walker

All is well here ... walking the nature center ... tying a few flies ... pretty much bored.

My lawn guy said he couldn't come. So I raked the yard myself for the first time in 25 or 30 years.

I now remember why I have a yard guy. :-)

Stephen Isgrigg
Waterford, Michigan



*Dave Begley
Shelter In Place Fishing*



Michigan Fly Fishing Club



Members Fly Fishing Word Find

BOB JACKLIN	L E E R C E T M L E H S I R H C P	ANT
BEAR ANDREWS	I L S M A L L M O U T H I T A F U	BAMBOO ROD
CADDIS	F F P B A N I X B O H V O D P U R	BOAT
CREED	D O E N I D T O W W E U D U E T P	BWO
FLIES	N T Y O G W A S P R O I T B L O L	CHIS HELM
EMERGER	O O R E A T N O J P S B O B U S E	DENNIS POTTER
GARY BORGER	E Y O G A R Y B O R G E R I A T H	DOUBLE HAUL
HERL	G T D R E L K C A H B E E N H E A	DUBBING
JOAN WULFF	N R N U D O S T N A E R S G E E Z	DUNN
MIDGE	U O M N N O E I W N C R V O L L E	FLOAT TUBE
NYMPH	D U H T E N T L U D U O L S B H A	HACKLE
RIVER	X T E P P I T E L L E A U W U E E	KELLY GALLOP
SMALLMOUTH	E O W C Z I I E F I L M M E O A B	LINE
SPEY ROD	S A L M O N E D F L I E S R D D U	NET
STEELHEAD	T O U Q O K Y E A R N U U D D S T	PEACOCK
SULFUR	M D O R O O B M A B E Y L N A C T	PURPLE HAZE
TIPPET	K L K C O C A E P A O L F A O O A	SALMON
TROUT	E E M E R G E R N H E Y U R T T O	SEX DUNGEON
	L D E N N I S P O T T E R A N C L	
	P S E D P O L L A G Y L L E K H F	
	O J Y A W O N I L K C A J B O B S	

Parachute Adams



Matt Grobert Sulfur Emerger



Fat Albert



*Todd's
Fly Variant*



*Steve Isgrigg's
Covid Tying*



Hippi Stomper



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events



Important Announcement

From The Library...

Due to the Corona Virus, members who have outstanding books or DVDs, in lieu of late fees, will be asked to be a guest speaker at an upcoming MFFC meeting. Since each of you have had months to digest the materials, you are apt to now be expert on the subject matter addressed, surpassing any knowledge to be gained from a paid guest speaker. All kidding aside, since all the library offerings are stored in Clarenceville, we may have to wait till Fall to return your items. So please, store them in safe keeping and return them at the next Clarenceville meeting. You'll probably receive a reminder closer to that date.

Let's all pray that we have a return to normalcy soon. Be safe and follow the recommended guidelines!

Jerry Deputat

From The President

Covid Shopping?

Sign up for **AmazonSmile**, through Amazon.com to help support the Club. The **AmazonSmile** Foundation donates 0.5% of your purchase of eligible products when you choose the MFFC.

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in to Amazon.com.
3. Choose a charitable organization to receive donations or search for the charity of choice (Michigan Fly Fishing Club).
4. Select your charity
5. Start shopping!
6. Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return, then start shopping at AmazonSmile. Items must be purchased from smile.amazon.com in order for the Club to receive donations.

Members Fly Tying At The

Ultimate Fishing Show



Scout School





Michigan Fly Fishing Club
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