



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Pandemic Edition 2020

Pretty Lake

By Jim DuFresne

It was a calm evening after a late spring in the land of the Big Two Hearted River, a deadly combination that leads to swarms of mosquitoes and black flies following me out on the lake.

I was trying to slip a 4X tippet into the No. 12 dry fly. I'd stop, whack a half dozen mosquitoes from the back of my neck and then spear that eyelet again with the tippet. After three unsuccessful attempts, I dropped the fly line in frustration and grabbed that bottle of Muskoil to douse my head with chemicals. That's when I saw the loons.

A pair sat perfectly still on the smooth surface, not more than 20 yards away from my canoe. We eyed each other for a few seconds, and then they disappeared into the lake only to suddenly reappear on the other side of the boat.

They played this game of hide-and-seek for about five minutes before vanishing for good. The trout suddenly seemed unimportant. I covered myself with enough DEET to melt a 10-pound-test line and then settled back in the canoe to simply enjoy this serene little body of water they call Pretty Lake.

It is, even when the bugs are out.

"I never get anything big from those lakes, I think 14 inches is the longest trout I have ever caught," said Bruce Richards, the former head engineer for



Scientific Anglers of Midland who has fished and paddled the area for years.

"But it's really scenic, isn't it? Pretty Lake is one of my favorite areas to fish in the Upper Peninsula."

Located in Lake Superior State Forest, 27 miles northwest of Newberry in Luce County, Pretty Lake Complex is a designated High Conservation Value Area that stretches across 2,200 acres including the North Branch of the Two Hearted River.

The centerpiece of this non-motorized tract is nine lakes connected

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MFFC Calendar



Activity & Speaker Meetings Canceled Through July

June 17, 2020 - Speaker Meeting
Rescheduled for June 9, 2021
VisTaTek Center, Livonia 7:30 p.m.

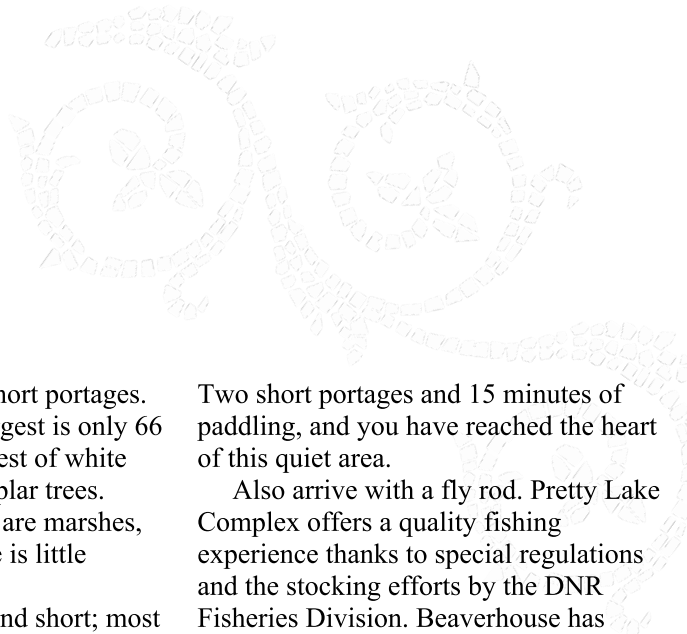
July 15, 2020 - Speaker Meeting
Rescheduled for July 14, 2021
VisTaTek Center, Livonia 7:30 p.m.

Occurring With Modifications:

July 15-18, 2020 - WaWaSum
Multi-Lakes Conservation Assoc.,
Commerce Twp. 7:30 a.m. set up

July 18, 2020 - Club Picnic
Multi-Lakes Conservation Assoc.,
Commerce Twp. 7:30 a.m. set up

Summer Speaker Meeting Dates
Dependant on Covid-19 Status:
August 19, 2020 - VisTaTech Cntr



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by a system of trails and short portages. These small lakes – the largest is only 66 acres – are nestled in a forest of white pine, spruce, cedar and poplar trees. Scattered through the area are marshes, wetlands and bogs as there is little elevation here.

The portages are easy and short; most are under 100 yards in length. Two Lakes – Pretty and Pratt – can be reached by a vehicle and serve as entry points. The rest of the lakes are explored either by hiking or paddling as off-road vehicles, outboard motors, or even trolling motors are banned in the complex.

The majority of visitors enter the quiet area from Pretty Lake State Forest Campground, a rustic facility of 18 sites with a small day-use area and a carry-in boat launch. The most charming places to pitch a tent, however, are the eight walk-in/paddle-in campsites on the shores of Beaverhouse Lake and Camp Eight Lake.

There are more than three miles of trail in the complex that connects the Pretty Lake campground to the rest of the lakes and the backcountry campsites. The hiking is easy and the trails, most of them old two-tracks, are well marked. But they can be wet or even a muddy quagmire in the spring or after heavy rain. Easy, level hiking does have its price.

It's best to arrive with a canoe for this is a paddler's paradise. The lakes are calm, the portages are short, the setting wilderness-like.

From the Pretty Lake campground, it's a quick paddle across the 47-acre lake. If your canoe is light or the water high, you can slip into Brush Lake through a small stream at the southwest corner.

If not, then it's a 140-foot portage. Brush Lake is even smaller at nine acres, and from its west side you can carry or even pull your canoe to Camp Eight Lake.

Two short portages and 15 minutes of paddling, and you have reached the heart of this quiet area.

Also arrive with a fly rod. Pretty Lake Complex offers a quality fishing experience thanks to special regulations and the stocking efforts by the DNR Fisheries Division. Beaverhouse has largemouth bass and walleye but the majority of the lakes are managed for Splake, Brook Trout and rainbows.

Pretty Lake offers the most diverse fishery as it is stocked with Splake and walleye but also offers anglers an opportunity to target Smallmouth Bass and Perch. Lakes that require more effort to reach them naturally receive less fishing pressure. This is especially true for Deer and Sid Lakes. Both have a ban on live bait and are stocked with Brook Trout. Other notable paddle-in lakes are Bullhead that is also stocked with Brook Trout and Long Lake that features Largemouth Bass.

Pack a tent as well and plan to spend a night or two. The magic of this small chain of lakes suddenly appears on calm evenings in the summer when you can watch small groups of Trout rise to the surface as they follow the shoreline to feed.

"The pattern doesn't matter much, they'll take almost anything," said Richards. "The key is to watch the rings then anticipate where the fish are heading and cast there."

And finally, pack lots of bug dope. This little bit of heaven can be hell when the black flies are out.

Jim DuFresne is a member of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club and editorial director for MichiganTrailMaps.com. You can order the new Pretty Lake Complex map from MichiganTrailMaps.com at: www.michigantrailmaps.com/product/pretty-lake-complex/

Members On The Fly

Social Distancing

Manistee River Fishing With Streamers
Date: May 10, 2020 (mid-pandemic)
Caught: 2 to 4, all Browns, 18" and 14"
Lost: a slightly larger than 18" and a friggion monster at the boat estimated by me a 2 footer, estimated by Ed at 22-24" I had lots of time to see the fish before I lost it.
Weather: great day although a bit cold
Reporting: Larry Webb



My back lot line May 18. Buttermilk creek under the bridge somewhere.



My typical fish report from a guide trip; I don't give much away.



MFFFC Business



Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Board Meeting April 7, 2020

Rollcall

Present: Nowicki; Strachan; Oehring; Niemi; S. Hunter; Selinger; Bada; Mayes; Vanderhoof
Absent: Summers
Guests: Jim Keith; Barry Green; Fred Seajalon, Kevin Lipp; Harry Briggs

Approval of Minutes - Approved
Approval of Agenda - Approved

Officer's Reports

President - Nowicki

Nothing to report

Vice President - Strachan

Nothing to report

Treasurer - Oehring

*Estimated loss on treasurer's report based on income loss from the canceled expo.

*2020-2021 Budget Report. Adjustments made.

*Budget to be presented to membership in fall.

*2020-2021 Meeting schedule to be presented at next meeting.

*Treasurer's report accepted.

Corresponding Secretary - Hunter

Nothing to report.

Membership - Niemi

Nothing to report.

Events & Outings

2021 Expo: Mayes discussed Expo ETIX and social media.

New Business

Volunteers: discussed recruiting new volunteers tabled

Old Business

Raffle Postponements. The Club can move three raffle licenses to next year's raffles. Nowicki reported we received refunds for raffles which were cancelled this year.

Visitor Comments: none

Adjournment: 9:25 p.m.



Howard Geller Award Recipient

Kathy Oehring

Kathy Oehring has been named the recipient of the 2020 Geller Award.

A Michigan Fly Fishing Club member since 2001, Kathy was selected from among a number of nominees by the Geller Award Committee which is comprised of past Geller Award recipients.

Besides currently serving another term as the Club's treasurer (her third), Kathy has been a volunteer fixture behind the scenes since first joining the club. Interestingly enough, many of her volunteer endeavors have involved food — marshaling breakfast and lunch at multiple Members' Schools, assisting in the kitchen at WaWaSum during Club outings there, volunteering at the annual Club Picnic and chairing several Club Banquets. At the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, apart from all the activity involved during multiple stints as Club treasurer, Kathy has served in the Club Room and as part of the "tear down" crew. "We did this for years. My job was always to fold curtains. The never-ending pile of blue curtains," she recalled.

In between her first two terms as treasurer and her current term in that role, Kathy served as an At-Large Director.

"To receive the award named for Howard Geller is humbling. I am honored to be chosen," Kathy said. "I thank all of you have been a part of my getting to this point," she added.

In a normal year, the Award would have been presented by the prior year's recipient (Pete Albertson) at the Annual Banquet. This, *Continued on page 7*



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May Fly Of The Month

NearenuF Lockdown Already

H.G. Tapply's "NearenuF"

By Todd Schotts

Since this is a "Still in Lockdown" Issue of Covid-19 for the Evening Hatch, I will do a fly that sort of represents the feeling of this lockdown, probably that most of us are feeling "Near Enough." We are all probably getting that cabin fever, and ready to get our lives back to normal or to "Near Enough" of normal. I am lucky as my company is considered essential, so I am on work release all week and house arrest for the weekends, that is unless I sneak out to go fishing. So this month's fly is from H.G."Tap" Tapply and is called "Tap's NearenuF."

Horace G. Tapply was a former associate editor of *Field & Stream Magazine* and editor of several other outdoor publications. He is best known for his column in *Field & Stream's* "Tap's Tips." His son mentions that from 1950 to 1985, his father filled two pages of useful information for the outdoors person. He also mentions that every tip had to be tested beforehand, so they got to do many fishing and hunting excursions to test 100 ideas a year. That sounds like a fun adventure!

This fly was created sometime in the 1950's. H.G. gave his son a box of dry flies that were tied in sizes 12 to 18. The flies consisted of split wood-duck flank feather wings, a mixed ginger and grizzly hackle, a peacock quill body, and a pair of stripped grizzly quills, splayed for the tails. His son mentioned that his dad, H.G., mentioned to his son after testing these flies, "This will probably be the only fly you will ever need." The question from a son to his mentor was,

"What do you call this fly?" Like most tiers with a new fly, his dad said, "I don't know." But his dad mentioned when designing the fly, he used the best of common eastern mayflies like the Quill Gordon, Red Quill, Hendrickson, March Brown, Gray Fox, Light Cahill, and even the Pale Evening Dun. He used pieces of all these great mayflies to create a fly that doesn't imitate any one of them, but it imitates an aspect of each of them. And eventually that is how it became known as "the NearenuF".

When tying this fly, the appearance of the wing is probably one of the major portions of its personality. For the length of the wing, you will need to make sure the wings are as tall as the hook shank length. These wings need to be tilted slightly forward with about a 45 degree angle between them. When tying in the stripped grizzly hackle quills, it is mentioned to make a figure 8 around the tails and fix them in place with a small drop of head cement. To make sure the tails don't spin around the hook shank, take your thumb or finger nail and flatten out the part of the quill that will be tied against the hook shank. The length of the tails should be about 1 1/2 hook shanks in length. Once you get the tails tied in, make sure the body is tapered smoothly up to the wings. The reason to make sure the body is tapered smoothly is when you wrap the peacock quill up your body; you want a smooth even tapered body without any bumps. For the peacock quill, you can take a soft pencil eraser to strip the fuzz off a peacock herl. I know from teaching tying classes or seminars, the one question that usually comes up when tying dry flies, how many wraps of hackle do you wrap around the wings or post? For this fly, and any dry fly representing a mayfly, the answer is one wrap behind hackle and two wraps in front of the hackle for each of the Ginger and Grizzly Hackles. Then tie off the hackle behind the eye of the hook. One reason for

Tapply's NearenuF



HOOK: Standard dry fly sizes 12 to 18

THREAD: Gray 8/0 or 70 denier

WINGS: Wood Duck flank feather

TAILS: Two stripped grizzly hackle quills

BODY: Stripped peacock herl

HACKLE: Mixed Ginger and Grizzly
Rooster hackle

those few of wraps of hackle is you do not want to clutter up the front of the fly with too many hackle wraps. Plus it won't look like a normal mayfly because it will be robust and beefy, which is not a normal look.

When fishing this fly, here are some of the techniques that were mentioned by H.G. himself: If you find Trout feeding in slow water you can clip a "V" out of the bottom hackle. Now if the fish are eating emergers in the film clip the bottom hackle flat and clip the wings down. But if the fish are sipping on spinner's, that is where we will trim the hackle on the bottom flat, cut the wings off, and "V" out of the top of the hackle.

So if you want to add to your fly box a dry fly that will be a work horse like the famed Adams, add this fly in various sizes. Everyone remember to stay safe out there, and remember the fish will always be there. So until next month, Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.



June Fly Of The Month

Crazy Times - Crazy Fly

The McGinty

By Todd Schotts

This month I am going to keep with the theme that what has been going on in these crazy times we live in. With that in mind, we are going to the arena of flies that I really enjoy, terrestrials!! I am bringing to you a killer” of a terrestrial fly pattern! Not only is it a “Buzz” in the news lately, but is also a very historical and old fly pattern. This month’s pattern is a much smaller cousin of the newly famed Asian Gigantic Killer Wasp, but is only a killer to the fish. So for this month’s fly, I am bringing to you one of my most favorite terrestrial patterns out there, the “McGinty,” by Charles McGinty.

The river report on Charles McGinty is skinny, there is not much available. I found out he was a Chicago bartender. As for fly pattern itself, Charles developed it back in 1883 for the local species of Bass he loved to chase. Note that since the fly was designed or created in 1883, there is no original color picture of this fly’s pattern, just black and white drawings. The one I am sharing today is tied from the original fly recipe with a few changes in material.

Charles designed this fly to represent a bumble bee according to his notes in various books. This fly is not only for Bass, but great for Trout and various panfish as well. When looking up this pattern, it is usually listed in the “Bream” section in books and on line. The pattern is really great for bream (panfish cousin’s), shell crackers (panfish), Bass, Perch, and of course Trout. One thing to remember when tying this pattern for Trout, as a warm water recipe it is

recommended to scale the pattern down for cold water inhabitants. For myself, I like having some scaled down versions and some of the bigger sizes just to see which will work best.

When tying this killer of a bee pattern, the main concern is that it is constructed with alternating repeating bands of black and yellow chenille, or yarn, on the hook for the body. To start this fly out, we will tie in about 9 or 10 fibers of red hackle, then about 4 or 5 fibers of barred wood duck feather segments from a flank feather. Usually these fibers are about hook shank in length, or shorter. I like to go just a tad shorter myself, just to make sure I don’t end up have the tail fibers interfere with my hook ups. The confusing part when wrapping the body, as I mentioned earlier, is it needs to be alternating with the two colors of chenille. Start out with yellow first, then black, then yellow, then black, and one more yellow should complete the body. Once you have completed the body, and then the next step is the brown hackle throat. You only need about 1 ½ or 2 wraps of the hackle when wrapping the hackle feather. Any more wraps will muddy up the fly. The last technique calls for a “white tipped mallard wing quill” segment folded. Once you get this tied in, do a few wraps to tie in all the fibers, and before you do the half hitch to finish off; I like to put some permanent glue on my thread. I will then do a few more wraps and finish up with a half hitch.

When fishing this fly, target the edges of weed lines, lily pads, fallen tree branches or any other type of debris. Cast to the structure and let the fly sink without moving it, give it a few twitches, let it set, then strip it in slowly. My experience is that panfish and Bass take this fly in on its descent into the depths of the water system. The right seasons to fish this fly, is when

McGinty



HOOK: Standard wet fly hooks sizes 10-16

THREAD: 70 denier or 8/0 black

TAIL: Red Hackle fibers (9 or 10) & barred wood duck feathers (4) from flank feather

BODY: Yellow and black chenille fine on smaller sizes 14 & 16 / medium on 10 & 12

THROAT: Brown hackle

WING: White tipped mallard wing quill segment folded

the weather starts warming up in early spring to when it starts to cool off in mid to late fall. Just remember when the bumble bee’s start to take flight until they descend into hibernation, ’tis the season for this buzzing pattern.

If you want a terrestrial pattern proven over and over since 1883, then this is your fly! So instead of playing with the Killer Asian Gigantic Wasp, get your bobbins slinging, and tie on some killer, buzzing McGinty’s instead.

Until next month, stay safe, have a lot of tight lines and keep your flies snazzy.



MFFC Guest Columnist

Bruce Strachan

Pandemic Fishing

It was getting up there into the high 50's with blue skies and I thought "This year I'll finally get a jump on the Bluegill!" I planned to go that very day but since we had cancelled the annual Trout Tune-Up, it took me hours to gather my gear, rummage for the right flies and pack it all into the car. By then I was exhausted. Besides, the Weather Channel predicted more 50's and blue skies tomorrow. Well, "Tomorrow was another day."

Pandemic fishing is a bit strange. The Governor is telling me to stay home, wear a mask outside and avoid people. 'Do not go anywhere either!' On top of noodling where to fish, what flies to pack I had angst with new regulations and above all avoiding the nano-soccer ball of fat that encompasses a glob of protein in the form of rudimentary, incomplete RNA. In the realm of 'almost' living things, the coronavirus is an insidious bastard ready to hijack your respiratory system, the respiratory system of Homo sapiens. That's the top of the food chain! Dustin Hoffman said it best in the movie 'Outbreak.' "They are a billion times smaller than us and they are beating us!"

Well angst aside, I had a Buff for a mask, latex gloves and did not plan to be within casting distance of anyone at Brighton Recreation Area. So off I went with that stuff I packed yesterday. I-96 was empty. Maybe a dozen cars came

into my vicinity. Downtown Brighton was quite deserted. No fashionable residents frequented the usual gentrified shops and watering holes. I drove on to the recreation area.

I heard good things about my first stop but that was last year and I had been seasonally too late to capitalize. Chilson Pond is large but you can fish the redds near shore in the early season with a float tube. The pond is very shallow and quickly gets overrun with weeds in the spring also. Knowing this had led me to expect killer Bluegill fishing at this very moment.

I was early, too early. No signs of fish, redds, almost redds or success by a pair of kayak anglers working the drop offs. A socially distanced foursome walked their dogs and a couple sat at a picnic table gathering sun. None wore masks. Not much was going on to say the least. Why even the boat launch outhouse was boarded up against the virus – on order of the governor!

Brighton Recreation area offers more than one, or two or even three lakes for bass and Bluegill fishing. It is also no wake, relatively peaceful week days throughout the season and a reasonable commute facilitating an hour or two of angling. The largest lake, Bishop, was my next stop. More dog walkers were in force here and judging by the boat launch area anglers were on the lake. A family guy was trailering his boat while the kids took a few 'last' casts on their Snoopy rods. No fish were in evidence.

I waited for the trailer to clear ('social distancing' of course) then walked down to inspect the area around the launch where small gills congregate during the

active season and a futile redd or two might be found. No fish, no redd, no almost red in evidence! People without masks or gloves walked by and anglers toting spinning rods and long faces passed. Bishop Lake was strike two.

A very small lake offering solitude but maybe not spectacular fishing was the next destination though I did not expect better results. No one goes there to fish because marsh protects its shore line. However, it is perfect size for a float tube. I have spent some delightful evenings there.

Appropriately it is called Little Appleton Lake and is just up the road from the recreation area entrance. The parking area, as usual, was a trap ready to engulf any . . . ordinary vehicle. I avoided the pits, parked, walked a distance from the pot smokers and inspected the water. Guess what? No fish, no redds, no almost—redds.

Chalk up this trip to the first skunk of the 2021. But I will keep this venue in mind during this pandemic fishing season. After all, last year's report about Chilson had said, "40 fish or more in an hour." And I'm not going to miss the early Bluegills again this year, pandemic or no.

Post Script: For real information about coronavirus see the Wikipedia article & side bars. Fascinating! <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coronavirus>



Michigan Fly Fishing Club



2020 MFFC

WaWaSum Outing!!

JULY 15 thru JULY 18

AuSable River's WawaSum Lodge
Is Open!

Arrival: Weds Afternoon 07/15

Departure: By 11 Am Saturday 07/18
(Just In Time To Tell Lies at the MFFC
Picnic!)

SPACE is very LIMITED

Seven Rooms & A Screened Porch Only
Capacity Is 8-10 Club Members Only

COVID19 RESTRICTIONS.

One household per room
Couples / family members can double up
on a room

Bring your own sleeping bag
Towels & Pillowcases
Electric Fan

\$160 Cost Includes

3 Nights Accommodations
& 3 Breakfasts
Lunch & Dinner not included

Please send your \$80 Deposit &
Confirmation **IMMEDIATELY**

Make Checks Payable To:

Jon Bada

2814 Walsh Drive

Rochester Hills, MI. 48309
(jonbada@hotmail.com)

We Got It Going On!

MFFC Picnic 2020

President Bruce Strachan and Picnic Chair
John Eriksson are pleased to confirm the
annual **MFFC Picnic** will be held Saturday
July 18, 2020 at the **MultiLakes
Conservation Association in Commerce
Township**. Mark your calendars!

According to Eriksson, set-up is expected
to begin at 7:30 a.. with lunch to be available
at noon. The menu is expected to include St.
Louis-style ribs, brisket, chicken (drumsticks,
thigh's and breasts) and hot dogs.

Attendees will have access to fish Reed
Lake, either from the dock or personal kayaks
and float tubes. The shooting ranges will be
available, Eriksson said. "if someone would
like to shoot skeet, sporting clays or the rifle
range. Anybody that wants to shoot must pay
the non-member price," he said. See the
MultiLakes website for the fee schedule.

MultiLakes is requesting that picnic
attendees adhere to social distancing
guidelines Eriksson said picnic tables will be
arranged to facilitate social distancing.
Restrooms will be available.

MultiLakes is located at 3860 Newton
Road in Commerce Township. More
information about the facility is available at
the website multilakes.com.



**Howard Geller Award Recipient
Kathy Oehring**

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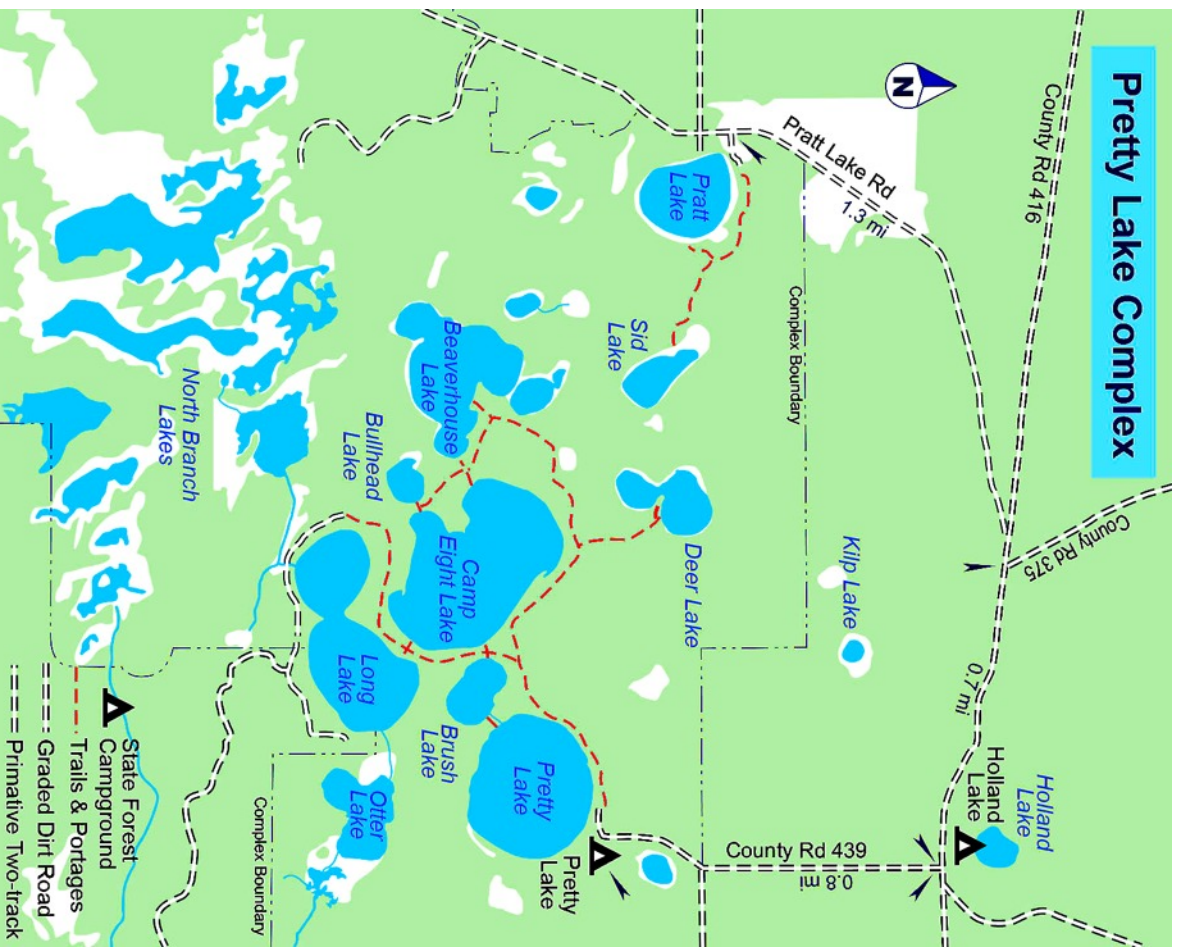
however, has been anything but a normal
year. The actual Geller Award and the rod
that accompanies the award (this year a 7-
foot-6-inch Winston Nimbus 3-weight) will
be presented at some point in the future when
Club activities resume.



Ad Hoc Geller Committee Chairperson
Mike Matuszewski provide a brief history of
the award: "The idea of the award was
conceived in 2009 when the Board recognized
that the Club's success would not be possible
without the time and effort volunteered by
Club members. The Board instituted a new
practice — to each year honor an outstanding
volunteer. Howard Geller, who devoted
untold hours to the club, especially its youth
education activities. The Board thought so
much of Howard and his selflessness that it
named the new award after him."

The members of the Geller Award
Committee are Mike Matuszewski, Joe Sprys,
A.L. Bulszewicz, Terry Herron, Todd Schotts,
Bill Shannon and Peter Albertson. Deceased
recipients are Howard Geller, Mike Doyle,
Jim Telinda and Joe Sattler.

Pretty Lake Feature Story Map



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