



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Summer 2015

Underfished Waters Of Yellowstone

By Sybil Hunter

"There is more public frontage water than anywhere else in the world," said Craig Matthews, guest speaker at the annual MFFC banquet, hinting at trade secrets of hidden locales for amazing fishing in Yellowstone Park.

Firehole River. It is under fished and the snow and moisture yield a big mayfly emergence. Matthews also suggests fishing below the falls of the Fire Hole. "You'll hook 100 fish; you won't land them with the canyon walls, but you'll hook them!"

Iron Spring Creek. Find it. Go there.

The Madison. "Now [May] until July fourth it is packed with fish," said Matthews. Duns and caddis are the only flies you need during that time, he advised. "They're gonna hatch four or five times or more....so don't leave too early." Matthews also suggested fishing off the south branch of the Madison, just off the road. "Big browns are wallowing around in there. If there is a big ball of fish, they are sleeping." According to Matthews, the best way to wake up those big browns is to bonk them on the head with a nymph.

The Gibbon. "Fish below the falls. There is mostly brown trout. Near Norris Geyser are the biggest fish."

Hebgen Lake. "It is excellent. There are thousands of fish. Stand by the guard rail and fish."



Quake Lake. Matthews had one piece of advise, "You don't want to fish in the trees."

Fawn Creek. "You are by yourself."

Specimen Creek. "April and May is the best dry fly fishing of the season." Matthews reminds fishers to take their bear spray.

Upper Gardner River. "It is a special place....an incredible area."

South Fork Madison River. "It is a nursery stream," said Matthews, "Go this time of year [May] or after October."

Lamar Canyon. "Nice fishing," said Matthews. "Fish the Lamar! Fish
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MFFC Calendar



August 12, 2015

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: LSSU Speaker

Topic: Stocking the Au Sable
William M. Costic Center
Farmington Hills, 7:30 p.m.

August 29, 2015

Club Picnic

Competition: target casting

Activities: eating and fishing
Multi Lakes Conservation Club
3860 Newton Road
Commerce Township, 12:00 p.m.

September 2015 Dates TBD

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



Fish Fish Everywhere Fish

Underfished Waters of Yellowstone

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the Lamar!" It is all sight fishing and the only place to find Grayling. In September, the Mormon Crickets are migrating.

Slough Creek. "It is several miles out of the park. Fish the lower Slough."

Soda Butte. "A lovely fishery."

Duck Creek. It is out of the park, off of Highway 191. There are a number of grizzlies in the area. "It's a whole different sack of cats."

Geo Creek. "It is an island of cutthroat. It is absolutely drop dead gorgeous. Nobody fishes there."

Bechler Section. This area receives 87 inches of moisture a year. It houses hybrids and Yellowstone cutthroats. Then at the upper Bechler. "There is sight fishing - a lot like New Zealand," said Matthews.

Tangle Creek. Use foam flies.

Nez Perce Creek. "This is home to me," said Matthews.

Fish \$3 Bridge.

Speaker Meeting - LSSU Rep., August 12, 2015

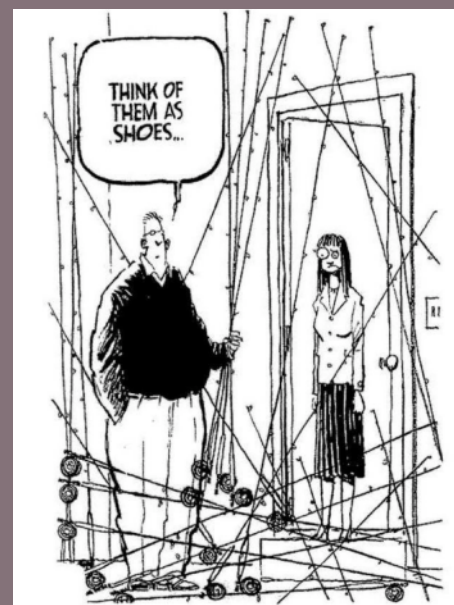
"Fall is my favorite time of year," said Matthews. "There is so much wildlife...and all the colors!" Fish become more aggressive in the fall - fish streamers.

The Gardner. "There is a big run of brown trout in the fall," said Matthews.

Horse Creek. "There are pools up to your chin just full of fish!"

Craig Matthews promoted 1% For The Planet (1% gross from a purchase goes to funding conservation around the planet), the Madison River Foundation, Yellowstone Park Foundation, and the Nature Conservancy. The latter of which assisted Bob and Annie Graham in fundraising to save a 177 acre cattle ranch for conservation. "Everyone of us us can fish on this forever because of Bob and Annie!"

"We need to get all political parties on track," said Matthews in closing. "If we don't, we are all in trouble."



Update From The

Rod Committee

Grass Trout beware. As part of the process to acquire and test fly rods to replace our current training rods, Chris Hunter acquired some wonderful new rods and reels. The club now has the following 5 wt rods for testing: TFO Pro II (with matching reel); TFO Signature II; Mystic Reaper; Allen Alluvion (with matching reel); and a St. Croix Rio Santo (with matching reel). Along with the rod acquisition, Allen Fly Rods also provided three reels for consideration; a Trout II, Kraken, and an ATS II. There was a good turn out at our first round of testing on the lawn of the Costic Center last meeting, and we hope to get more Club members

involved. Our next rounds of testing will be: Montana (week 1), Costic Center on August 12, 2015 and the club picnic. We are asking anyone who is interested to come to cast the rods and try out the reels. For the shy types, who don't want to embarrass others with their casting prowess (or lack thereof), you can also arrange to borrow a rod & reel to test out on your own time. All constructive input is welcome. The Rod Committee will make a final decision regarding the rod and reel purchase in September, following the testing process and member input. The testing rods will become part of the Club inventory for use at activity meetings. The reels will become part of the Club inventory or possibly be donated to the raffle. For any questions or inquiries, please contact Chris Hunter for details. 734-233-8025 or attyhunter@gmail.com



Terry Drinkwine

Featured Columnist

Two Cents Worth

Fire

There is more to going fishing than standing in the water, drifting in a boat or just plain sitting on a bank and throwing enticing morsels to hungry fish. There are the things we do that make the day a memory. One sure way to make a memory is by sitting around a fire, reliving the day.

Wood can warm you three times - when you cut it, when you split and stack it and when you burn it. Fire is what brought us in from the cold and there hasn't been a more important discovery since. A fire is mesmerizing and its fragrance can be pure ambrosia. One "Old Timer" once said that a pine knot thrown on a fire will bring the north woods inside, and truer words were never spoken.

A fire has the ability to fixate those who stare into its flames. Multicolored dancing streams of heat can keep you occupied for as long as they last. It's a poor man's therapy session. Fire has a way of putting things into perspective; mountains become small piles of ash and don't seem as insurmountable by the time the fire dies out. And its warmth is as comforting as a mother's embrace.

We've tried to become more efficient in creating fire for heat; we learned that oil, gas, coal and liquid fuel will burn and for a longer time than wood - making it cheaper in some cases. We've even learned how to duplicate a wood fire, at least in appearance, with fake logs and flames or gas flames. But for ambiance and fragrance a wood fire can't be duplicated. Not even close.

There are different types of wood, all of which burn, but hardwoods such as oak and maple or hickory burn longer and if you add a piece of fruitwood, you have a potpourri of magnificent smells. Don't forget the pine knot.

Campfires are what mark a day outdoors a success. After a day's hunt or fishing with friends, sitting around a roaring fire warming yourself and drinking something hot that was heated on the fire, seems to sooth tired bones

and disappointments caused by missed strikes, elusive trout or thundering grouse as they fly ahead of the number six's thrown at them. The fire makes things okay and tomorrow something to look forward to.

"Old Timers" tell of huge bonfires built on the banks of frozen lakes to keep warm while spearing pike and other fish. They tell of warming and drying cloths of those misfortunate enough to have gone through thin ice. Every story told of gatherings of people who relish the outdoors, has a memory of time spent around a campfire. What would a ghost story be if not told around a campfire?

Building a fire is a rite of passage from parent to child. It's a big thing to be allowed to start the campfire for the first time. It's a way of proving you're ready to join the club of outdoorsmen who can survive in the woods with a fishhook, a string and two matches. The key is being able to start a fire with only two matches. (That is until the advent of the disposable lighter.)

For a youngster, being able to build a campfire means being trusted to use an ax to make kindling, a pocket knife to cut and sharpen, and a switch for roasting marshmallows and cooking hotdogs over jumping flames. If it was done with only two matches and no blood from a cut finger, wow...you grew a foot that day.

Fires keep the wolves at bay. They are a source of security, warmth and of course, prosperity. There is no one more prosperous than a person sitting in their living room with family and friends in front of a fire in the fireplace. Throw on a pine knot or two, and if only for a short while, all is well.

Dogs find comfort in a fire too. Jake, my yellow lab of years gone by, used to lie as close as he could to the fire in a Franklin stove at the cabin - if the doors were open so much the better. He'd lay so close steam would rise from his coat. When he was warm enough on one side, he'd turn over. I still have that picture in my mind even though Jake has been gone for long time. TD



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June Fly Of The Month

Featured Fly

Make sure you always have them in your flybox!

Prince Nymph

By Todd A. Schotts

I searched high and low for this month's fly of the month...as I searched books, internet...then I was out fishing and there in my fly box it was...THE PRINCE NYMPH! This fly pattern is a staple, from the original pattern to all of its crazy enhanced cousins.

The Prince Nymph originated (this is where it gets complicated so hang on to your hooks) in the 1930's by brothers Don and Dick Olson and was called the "Forked-Tail Nymph." Then in the early 1940's, Doug Prince tied some up for Buz Buszek for his mail order catalog (after having great success fishing with the fly). From there, Buz couldn't remember the name, so he called the fly the "Prince Nymph" after Doug Prince and noted him as the creator of the fly. That is the twisted history of this particular fly.

The pattern is one of the greatest nymph patterns available, with or without a bead head. The big question throughout the years is, is this an attractor or an imitator? I know if you tie the fly in bigger sizes, it can resemble a Stone Fly. For many tyers, it is always the age old question, attractor or imitator? Either way, this

fly certainly works!

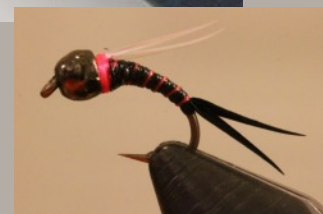
The original pattern was tied with brown hackle at the head, which since was changed to partridge. The original pattern also had the wings (white biots) in an upward position, something very uncommon if you buy these patterns in fly shops today. Another enhancement of the fly was to wrap the peacock herl around thin wire or thread in order to wrap the body or even to use peacock dubbing to make this fly more durable - especially since peacock herl is very brittle. Always look for brown biots that have more of a curl, not the thick ones that resemble the "split tails" of the original pattern.

The Prince Nymph is popular for both rivers and lakes, as a dropper with a dry, dropper with another nymph, with bead head, or without. When retrieving the fly, go slow and steady, pausing between strips.

As for the descendants of the Prince Nymph, there are many. They use different materials, different colors, and different styles of hooks. Here are just a few cousins of the Prince Nymphs from the tangled family tree: Purple Prince Nymph, The Psycho Prince Nymph, Rabid Prince, Black Jack-Prince, Bloody Prince, Mega Prince, Bullet Prince, and the Royal Prince. Yes, I even have an enhanced Prince Nymph that I did back 15 years ago to use on the Huron River. The first original name of the fly was just for me, so I called my version of the Prince "Red Headed Slut." When I started tying it at shows and selling flies, I changed the name to its current name, "Red Headed Prince."

How ever you tie the Prince Nymph, make sure you always have them in your fly box in different sizes, both weighted and not weighted. Until next time, tight lines and snazzy flies.

Fly Variations



HOOK: Mustad 9671, 4 thru 18
THREAD: Black or Brown 8/0 or 70 Denier
WEIGHT: Lead wire
TAIL: Brown goose biots
RIB: Fine gold tinsel or wire
BODY: Peacock herl, about 3 strands
HACKLE: Coachman Brown
WINGS: Goose biots - White
BEAD HEAD: Optional



July Fly Of The Month

Featured Fly

How could you *not* like this fly?

Edmonds' Stealth Bomber

By Todd A. Schotts

Quite a few years ago, while participating at a Fly Fishing Show down in the Appalachian Mountains, I was introduced to a unique fly that caught my attention. It has foam, deer hair, flash and rubber legs. How could you *not* like a fly like this? It is one of my favorite bass flies for both lakes and rivers: "Edmonds' Stealth Bomber."

The Stealth Bomber fly pattern was created by Kent Edmonds, right around the time of Desert Storm, the first Gulf War. The original pattern was tied to resemble the B-2 Stealth Bomber with the very visible Delta Wing. That is exactly how the fly got its name.

After growing up in South Carolina fishing the trout streams of North Carolina and Northern Georgia, Kent moved to Georgia 30+ years ago, and eventually became a licensed full time guide, and a representative for various fly fishing tackle companies. His articles have appeared in national fly fishing and outdoor magazines; he is a member of the Georgia Outdoor Writers Association and is also a fly tyer and designer.

The original Stealth Bomber was tied with black foam and had just a basic tail. It was originally tied for black bass and bream; but also tied in the bigger size (2), it can be used for Strippers, Snook, Tarpon, Reds, Jacks, Pike, and in smaller sizes Trout. This pattern got termed as a "Fence-Rider" type of fly. That is where the fly is big enough to attract Bass, but small enough to entice big Bream (Sunfish).

Nowadays the Stealth's are tied in multitude of different colors with rubber legs, unlike the very first pattern. Over the years the shape of the foam has grown, as it evolved creating a better balance to improve the action.

The pattern is unique, as it is a diver/slider crossover that wiggles and dives as it is stripped. The best way to explain how this fly works was described on the internet as: "The turbulence it creates, along with the dynamics of the wing, causes the fly to move side-to-side and releases bubbles." Back in 2010, the pattern graced the pages of *American Angler* (May/June pg.36). Beside having the pattern, they even had a template to cut out the bodies by hand. You can still use that same template or if you want to purchase cutters. River Road Creations carries a set of three foam cutters for the body in sizes of 10, 6, and 2.

When tying this pattern remember to dub the body very lightly. When tying in the foam, take two or three snug wraps, put a dot of super glue on the thread, then make two more wraps. This will help to secure the foam to the hook so the body does not slide around when it is being fished. Also, the top foam wing must be tied down very tightly so that it flares upward and out. If it lays flat on the body, the fly will not dive or move correctly, plus it may just land upside down and stay there.

There are numerous ways to fish the Stealth. In a current - with dead stops and slight twitches in non-moving water, or it can be stripped hard with stops in between, or even stripped continuously causing it to be a continuously diving fly. Three important things to remember when you fish this pattern are: 1st use fairly heavy tippet (or you will have a twisted tangled tippet mess if not); 2nd don't set the hook by lifting the rod tip, but use a strip set as fish don't usually slam the fly when taking it, so with the strip set, you won't pull the fly out of the fish's range let alone its mouth; and 3rd if you can tie a Rapala's Knot with the tippet to the fly, this will give the fly more action in the water.

If you are heading out thinking about chasing some Bass (Smallmouth or Largemouth), make sure you have a few of these in our arsenal in different colors and sizes. Until next time, tight lines.



HOOK: Gamakatsu B10S, Mustad 3366, or Allen Hooks B200
Sizes 2, 6, & 10

THREAD: 210 denier (match foam)

TAIL: Bucktail, Flashabou/Krystal Flash, or Marabou (match or contrast with foam)

DUBBING: Sparkle Dubbing or Sparkle Chenille

BODY AND WING: 2mm foam, cut to shape

UNDER WING: Krystal Flash or Flashabou

LEGS: Round Rubber Legs (contrast or match Foam)



Summer Members Corner

Featured Members

Featured Member Speaker

Steve Bocks

By Sybil Hunter

“The sights are phenomenal on the Big Horn and you can fish it year round,” said Steve Bocks, July’s featured member speaker. The Big Horn River is a fresh water fishery. It is 70 miles long, 200 to 500 feet deep and houses large brown trout and up to 40 pound carp. Originally inhabited by the Sioux in the 1800’s, the river is now part of the Crow Indian Reservation. Historically, to fish the Big Horn, one had to get permission from the local tribe, now the river is accessible with a current Montana fishing license.

The Big Horn is a tail water river, has cold consistent flows, consistent water temperatures, and an incredible amount of insects available for fish to feed. “There are enormous amounts of food all day, year around,” Bocks pointed out. This makes for great fishing.

Runoff from the mountains would flood the area, so Yellowtail Dam, started in 1961 and finished six years later, was built. It changed the river considerably. However, seeing as it is a bottom draw dam, “It has perfect conditions for trout fishing,” said Bocks.

Farther down the river is After Bay Dam, “a staging area for water going into the Big Horn River,” said Bocks. The next segment is from After Bay Dam to 3 Mile Access, “It’s an amusement park.” Said Bocks. “It is the most crowded places to fish, but it can withstand the pressure.” Then from 3 Mile Access to Big Horn Access, the water warms, and

speeds up, housing fewer fish. Bocks pointed out the only safe access points from which to wade are a After Bay Dam and 3 Mile Access.

“The river is crystal clear, which makes it really easy to do some sight fishing,” said Bocks. One of the complaints people have of the Big Horn, is the grass. Hook a fish and it feels like a whale because you have 15 pounds of grass coming in on the line!”

Originally stocked with Cutthroat and Rainbows, the river is now 60% Brown Trout and 40% Rainbow Trout. It has not been stocked for over 30 years. All the fish have vivid coloring. “The deep golden color of the Browns,” said Bocks, “that comes from the alkalinity of the water from the limestone in the water coming down from the mountains.”

Bocks advised nymphs and streamers for Rainbow Trout, as they are more surface feeders. As a general rule of thumb, he suggested fishing the Big Horn with a nymph rig. Suggested flies include: scuds (one of the mainstays); Sow Bugs; San Juan worms (reds are best); Mercury Midges; Tongue Teasers (a MT Zebra Midge variation); a Prince Nymph coupled with a Copper John (size 20 is the best); Caddis larvae; the Big Horn Special coupled with a Circus Peanut; a Blue Wing Olive coupled with a Griffins Gnat; PMD; or spinners (Tryco or PMD).

On the river, there are wild horses, Big Horn rams, Ospreys, Eagles, Bears, and it is free range cow territory. “The area is unpopulated and has phenomenal scenery,” Bocks noted, however, “Watch where you are walking, there are rattlesnakes! If you stay at Cottonwood Camp and you want to walk to the river, DON’T DO IT.”

All in all, Bocks said, “It’s the trip of a lifetime!”

New Members Outing

Wa Wa Sum



Lower TU Access site on Holy Water. Frank Kunick, Gary Hagan, Craig Summers



Mason Tract South Branch Au Sable - same fishy characters.





Michigan Fly Fishing Club



Bring on the Bass!

Small Mouth Outing

Once again we headed to the outer most limits of the thumb area to Michigan's Port Austin, to stalk the famous bronzebacks of Lake Huron for the Michigan Fly Fishing Club Annual Smallmouth Outing. We witnessed all kinds of weather, but for the most part the majority of us felt the tight lines of these majestic creatures. It only rained Friday morning, but on Saturday and Sunday extreme fog rolled into Grind Stone and Eagle Bay, taking over. Along with the dangerous fog patches we had high winds on Thursday.

Another curve ball, was the higher than normal water conditions that concentrated the majority of the fly fishers on the shoreline.

The fishing was a little different also; last year's beds were abandoned, foreclosed and filled in. The smallies were chasing after minnows and jumping out of the water - I have only seen this once before. Thursday night, and again Friday night, we formed the "Family Circle." Eight or so of us formed a big circle in the bay to fish. As the fish jumped, we shifted. This was more successful Thursday then Friday.

Sunday, the last day of the outing, had the best weather and fishing. I had already fished for most of the day, and caught a lot of good sized fish, so I had no regrets heading home.

The fish count for the weekend, was in the average triple digits. Fish sizes were much bigger than in years past. From the

pictures, the biggest fish award goes to Karen (Mel Spresney's daughter) for her 24 plus inch fish! That is the biggest smallie I have seen out there in some time! Congrats Karen! Roger Hinchcliff said it wasn't the quantity, but the quality of fish this year that got him.

Thursday night a fishing miracle occurred, then it happened again Friday night. Bob Gall was the "The Fish Whisper" of the bay both nights. As fast as he casted, he brought in smallies, one after another! 25+ on Thursday and the same on Friday. It was really something to see! As for another first, Renee Gall landed a white bass out of Eagle Bay.

As is normal SMO procedure, we all got shirts (chartreuse in color, we looked like a huge lawn company convention in town), had the soup and chili cook off, and had a rod give away. Thanks to all of the participants of the chili cook-off: Kevin Lipp, Norm Tabaka, Terry Drinkwine, and Mark Ellis. Of the soup competition: Marshall Reames, Norm Tabaka, Ken Harfoot, Joe Verona, and Jim Spilos. The winners were: Chili - Norm Tabaka (previous winner) and Soup - Marshall Reames (back to back winner). Both winners received gift cards to Schultz Outfitters. Judges were Renee Gall, Bob Gall and Steve Byrd - a big congrats for tantalizing and burning off your taste buds (don't worry, they will heal by next year's outing). Norm Tabaka won the fly rod, a Scott A4 /7wt, compliments of Schultz Outfitters. A big thanks for everyone who brought dishes to pass. We fish hard and feast well!

Thanks to all of this year's 51 attendees. There were returnees, and a number of brand new attendees and new members that made the trek. Thanks also to Schultz Outfitters, Advanced Tex Screen Printing, Inc. Blue Spruce Motel/Horseshoe Cabins, and my co-chair John Patte. Until next year's outing, Tight Lines, Todd.



The MFFC Salt Water Committee has assembled the first trip of the 2015-16 salt water season. This first trip of 2015 will be to Casares, Nicaragua for dorado (mahimahi) ranging from 10 to 40 lbs. This is blue-water fly fishing done from the local 20-ft watercraft known as pangas.

Anglers will stay at Hotel Lupita located south of the fishing village of Casares, right on the Pacific Ocean. Single occupancy accommodations and three meals per day are provided. Hotel Lupita is famous for their fabulous seafood dinners. The cost is \$150.00 per day which includes guided fishing (5 to 6 hours), all meals and accommodations.

Arrival day is September 15 to Managua, Nicaragua. Transfer to Casares will be arranged. Members pick their own departure day and are responsible for making their own airline reservations. Managua is serviced from Detroit by Delta, American/U.S. Airways, United or Spirit.

Please contact John Pinto for details at bn1fsh2@gmail.com.

**Come attend the Michigan Fly Fishing Club Picnic
August 29, 2015**

**at Multi-Lakes Conservation Association in Commerce Township,
Noon to 5:00 p.m.**

Meats are provided, bring your favorite dish to share.

fishing, horse shoes, good company, cheap entertainment, and accuracy casting

Questions? Want to help out?
Contact John Eriksson at
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