



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

January 2017

Fishing Central Pennsylvania

By Sybil Hunter

“Us Pennsylvanians think of you Michiganders like we think of ourselves so it’s a pleasure to be here,” said Eric Stroup, who joined MFFC members as January 2017’s first guest speaker. Stroup is a guide in the Central Pennsylvania area, which covers the Alleghenies, as well as the Juniata and Little Juniata River Basin.

(A note to the wise, in keeping with that reciprocity, the Juniata is pronounced [June-e-at-uh], lest one think you an import. The river and basin are named after the Juniata Indians who settled there.)

“The Alleghenies are right on the edge of the Appellations. The Little Juniata starts in Altoona; it is chemically a spring creek so there is great trout fishing,” said Stroup. “Come back in March if you want to catch fish. The best fishing of the year is early March and most of April. There are 14 miles of catch and release water.” When the water reaches 70 degrees, is when the best fishing starts. “If you are thinking about coming down, call me.”

The river is a non-stocked, Class A Wild Fishery, sporting year round hatches, open to the public, with no closed season. “It is a totally wild fishery,” said Stroup. “There is always something coming off this water.”

The Little Juniata is a nymphing river. It is very tough to wade as it is only about



three feet deep. “I tell everybody to bring a change of clothes. We do a lot of night stick nymphing, or tight lines.”

Helpful sub-surface patterns are the Pheasant Tail, Scud, and European Style Nymphs (they get down in the water column well).

“I really focus more on where and how we are fishing,” said Stroup. Key components are leader design, depth and drift, and the location of trout. If the temperature is above the 40s, trout are in the current; if the temperature is below the 40’s the trout are outside of the current. “If you find them, they will all be there.”

Stroup advises against a strike indicator because guessing the exact depth is not an easy task. Blue monofilament incorporated into the leader is a better solution. “It allows you to change depth while you are fishing. It allows you to adjust.”

“The other way to nymph is with a dry dropper. Use something on the surface that

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MFFC Calendar



February 1, 2016
Speaker Meeting
Speaker: Chris Lessway
Topic: Fishing Hatches After Hex
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

February 22, 2016
Activities Meeting
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

March 1, 2016
Activities Meeting
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

March 15, 2017
Speaker Meeting
Speaker: Roger Hinchcliff
Topic: Steelhead On The Swing
Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.



Off to the library ->

will be a killer sight.” (Wolfe, Stimulator, The Patriot) “Make sure the dropper has weight to it. Use two nymphs (below the dry fly) if you are allowed; make sure to check state laws. Also make sure the dropper is barbless. It is easier to get out of your hand.”

“The first big event in our neck of the woods is the Grannom Hatch...usually in April. It can be anytime in April.” Stroup suggests size 16 Grannoms (Caddis). Key factors for the Grannoms are: temperature; sunlight - “You gotta have sunlight. It’s really important;” and insect behavior - “On the Little Juniata they always rise to the hatch. These are caddis, if you don’t see them, they are eating just below the surface. You can do really well with just wet flies.”

The best part of fishing here is you won’t see anybody else on the water.”

Sulphurs hatch in May for a 21 day duration. “This is an event that happens right at dusk...it’s epic.” The earlier you fish the hatch, the better. “The fishing gets tougher as the hatch goes on. What’s important is the size (of the sulfur fly).” Tie size 14 to 20. As the hatch progresses, there are multiple insects during the early and late portions of the sulphur hatch.

“Most of the time if sulphurs are around, they are going to eat sulfurs. Honestly a pheasant tail is a really good imitation...” as is the J-Bug (named after his son), and the Tequila Sunrise.

“The Clink Hammer, it is always a go-to pattern if I’m having a tough time fishing. Traditional parachutes...the hatch is at night so don’t get caught up on the color...what’s really important is the size.”

“When nymphing, don’t get caught up on the pattern either, focus on the location. The Paranymp is always useful.” The Paranymp is tied by the famous Tom Baltz, one of Pennsylvania’s best fly tyers. “I used this fly for all hatches,” said Stroup.

Spinners are the toughest hatch to match.

“Don’t fly a spinner pattern so you can see it. Use size 14, 16...I’ll tie them down to an 18. Poly wing spinners will not cut it. You need a nice float, a good thin body, and light to go through it.” Give the wings more surface area.

New slide. “That’s my dog Blue.”

Next slide. “That’s the Green Drakes. That is a very special day too.” Key factors for Drakes include: weather; pattern, leader - “We throw 2x tippet;” space and distance awareness; and choosing the right fish. “Pick a fish that is close to you.”

Next slide. “We go to the mountains to catch brookies. After Drakes, I say let’s go up into the mountains to fish the Brook Trout.” Stroup recommends a 5 wt. 7 1/2 foot rod and a size 12 Royal Wolfe. “If I could pick any kind of fishing...I absolutely love this.”

Next, Small Mouth season. Stroup’s son John stood up. “My dad has a boat and says some day he will take me on the boat.” “Yeah, when you stop moving;” added Stroup.

Stroup keeps the boat rigged with three rods, an intermediate, a float, and a sink tip. “When we are in the water, it gives you something you can throw at them.”

“In July and August, there is still good fishing,” said Stroup. “Beetle fishing. I plop the line with the beetle, it’s important to get some rings off of those.” In mid-July, the water temps are in the mid-60s. The spring creek becomes very technical. Stroup suggests a 9 ft. rod with 9 ft. leader - “It needs to collapse, drift, and hold the fish.”

“My daddy’s the best fisher out there,” said John, Stroup’s son, watching the video. Stroup slyly offered John cash.

“We’ve got great Small Mouth fishing,” said Stroup. For that? “It’s a casting game. Cast 50 feet off the boat;” use all three lines; casting; the retrieve - “You’ve got to get some life into that fly;” casting; patterns - “I always fall back on the Clousers. I probably catch more fish on Clousers than anything;” “Oh and did I mention it’s a casting game?”

Members On The Fly

Around The State



Spencer & Bill at the GLC FFF Fly Fishing Show, January 14, 2017



Spencer & Joe after the GLC FFF Fly Fishing Show



Dan Walker

MFFC Business



Relive the journey ->



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January Fly Of The Month

Legendary and Notorious

Ray Charles

By Todd A. Schotts

To kick off 2017, I was researching, looking, and trying to decide what to bring to everyone as the first fly of the year. Then I was remembering one meeting this past fall, when we were indulged in many tight lines by “Bubba” Charlie Gray and the fly he used in this amazing achievement while fishing in Montana. The whispers of this fly that Charlie used spread amongst tiers in the club, and some of the personnel that head out to Montana. So, our January 2017 Fly of the Month will be none other than the legendary and notorious “Ray Charles.”

The history of this fly was hard to trace, but after much lengthy investigative research I finally found the creator of this fly pattern. That would be Harold Jenkins from Gillette, Wyoming. The purpose of this fly was originated as a “Guide Fly” for the tail waters of Montana. With fly names, there is always a story behind them. How did this fly get its weird name? Well there are many stories and fables surrounding the legendary and notorious fly naming. One of those fables is that even a “blind fish could spot this fly;” my other favorite is “a blind fisherman could catch a fish with this pattern.” However the name was achieved, it is still one lethal fly.

This fly is the most popular, and excellent, imitation of a Sow Bug. If you are not familiar with Sow Bugs they are grayish crustaceans in fertile tail waters and spring creeks. Here they scavenge,

feeding on both dead, and live, plant and animal debris. Sow Bugs are related to Pill Bugs (Roly-Polies), and being in the Crustacean family, they are also related to Crayfish (Crawfish), Crabs, Shrimp, and Lobsters. Sow Bugs range in size from ¼ to about 9/16 inch long and 5/16 inch wide, with their antennae’s reach about half the length of their bodies. If you look at a Sow Bug from the top, they look oval, their backs consist of a number of overlapping articulating plates, and they have seven pair of legs.

For tying these tasty morsels, there are many varied patterns with different materials and colors, but they all have the same response: many tight lines. Some of the better known body colors would be gray, orange, and pink. The sizes of the hook vary depending upon location. Hook sizes range from size 14 up to 22. The best way to find out what size you need for your area is to check with the local fly shops or just use a bug net. Using a bug net, you can match up the nymphs in your net to the hook that is closest in size. Plus, using a bug net you will be able to see the other aquatic insects that live in the watershed. Another feature you will see if you Google this fly pattern, is that some of their wacked out relatives will have beads on the front of them, or even hot spots (as a wrap of red or orange thread).

When fishing this simple but effective pattern, dead drift it down toward the bottom, or use it on a two fly rig. But if you really want to get the Top Secret Intel on fishing this fly, at one of the meetings, mosey over to Charlie “Bubba” Gray’s table to talk to him about this fly pattern. I know I have fished this fly down in Tennessee and here in Michigan with great success. It is beyond doubt an amazing fly pattern. Until next month Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.

Ray Charles



HOOK: TMC 2457, 3769

THREAD: 70 Denier Red

RIB: Silver Ultra Wire

FLASHBACK: Pearl Tinsel
Medium

BODY: Ostrich Herl (gray, orange,
pink, tan, olive)

HEAD (OPTIONAL): Bead, Glass,
Tungsten, or Regular Cyclops Beads





January Tier Of The Month

Dave Begley's

Pink Squirrel

By Todd A. Schotts

No, this isn't going to be a remake of the classic Christmas movie *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, so no squirrel in Christmas tree, no dumping waste in the city drain system, no Uncle Eddy, no dog yakking on a bone under the dinner table, no house full of relatives, nor thousands of Christmas lights on the house, but it is the last part of the name of the fly that our 2017 January Featured/Spotlight Tier is bringing us. The tier that will be gracing our front table and camera once again, is master tier Dave Begley. In the past, Dave brought us the Bronze Goddess (a deadly Smallmouth Bass pattern) and the Royal Coachman Trude (a classic fly pattern). Now Dave is bringing us yet another great pattern called the "Pink Squirrel."

If you are unfamiliar with Dave, here is a brief river report on him: Dave has been in the MFFC close to 20 years, and is a very active club member. Dave co-chairs "Kids Fly Tying" at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo with another master tier "Terry Herron." He also volunteers his tying prowess at the Ultimate Fishing Show and Outdoorama tying flies with kids. He chairs the Project Healing Waters Program (working with the

disabled Veterans tying flies). Aside from all of the above, he also volunteers at our other various schools & events.

For the fly Dave is bringing us, it originated from John Bethke in Wisconsin for the persnickety Brown Trout that live in area spring creeks in the driftless area of Wisconsin. The originator of this fly, John Bethke taught fly fishing at University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and is on Rainy's Pro Staff as a fly designer. For how this fly was created...it grew from pieces that were on his desk, especially the pink collar. The collar was created from tiny puffs of pink chenille that was stripped from the core while tying other flies. Besides the persnickety Trout and almighty panfish that he has had many tight lines with, the originator also caught: Suckers, Carp, Bass, Steelhead, Perch, Crappie, and Sheephead with this amazing tiny morsel of a fly.

When tying this fly, Dave mentions he will be doing the tying demo in a size 14, but it can be done in size 16 as well. With the original pattern, the originator actually tied and fished this fly on sizes from 18 to size 6. This fly isn't much different than the famed tying style of Czech Nymphs that utilize a hot spot of bright color to attract fish.

When fishing this pattern, it is best best to dead drift it, then slowly strip the pattern back to you. You can also use a tandem rig when fishing this fly, with either a hopper/dropper or two nymphs instead.

If you want to learn to tie this pattern and sling bobbins with Dave, bring your vise, tools, and note taking materials to our January activity meeting. Until next month, tight lines and snazzy flies.

Pink Squirrel



HOOK: Scud Hook Sizes 14 & 16 (can be tied on sizes 18, 12, 10, 8, or 6)

THREAD: 70 Denier or 8/0
Pink or Brown

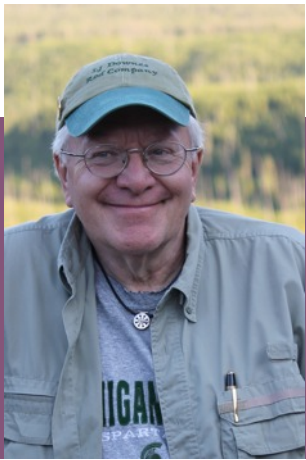
BEAD: 1/8" Gold Bead (for sizes 14 & 16)

TAIL: 2-3 strands of pearl
Krystal Flash

RIB: Red Copper Wire

BODY: Fox Squirrel Fur with
Amber Antron blended together

COLLAR: Pink Chenille or
Yarn or Pink Dub



Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Reader

Al The Hackleman

Read The Winter Away

Happy New Year everyone.

There is snow on the ground and a chill in the air. It's time to tie some flies and read some books.

So I was looking for something to ready the other day and looked through my library of fly fishing books. I sure have spent some money on books through the years. I stood and looked at one bookshelf, then another, then another, then... more than a few more. I picked a couple books off the shelves, then a couple more. Old books, books I have read a few times before. Books that still teach me. Books I still find new information in each time I read them. So I took these books out to sort of look at again then it struck me, why do I love some books so much? I started to realize that quite a few books I just love to read and look at were sort of "starter" books. Let me explain a bit.

One of my absolute favorite books about fly fishing is Harry Middleton's book "The Earth is Enough." I just love this book, and mostly because the author just writes about the learning process of fly fishing as taught to him by his grandfather and uncle. The subtitle of the book is "growing up in a world of trout and old men" and that's what he writes about. Harry was lucky enough to be able to spend a few years in his teens with his grandfather and learned not only fly fishing, but a lot of other things that only the more experienced can share. He learned the art of the stalk for the fish. How to wade quietly and slowly. How to cast under tree limbs, and how to enjoy even a day that had no feeding fish. This book, the first by Harry, started me on the journey to learn more about this sport that we all share. I

can say I have every book from him save one, and that one is very difficult to find.

Another of my favorite books is Sylvester Nemes book "The Soft-Hackled Fly." This book also spoke to me about the process of casting, fishing, and slowing down. This book taught me a lot about fishing non-dry flies. Again, it started me on a road to more information and more enjoyment than I could have imagined. When I picked this book off my shelf, I noted I have every one of Sylvester's many books, and about 20 others about the same subject from other authors.

Many of the other books are re-prints of books published many years ago. Many of them were written and published far before I was born. All of them are cherished, have been read, and continue to educate me in the art of the soft hackled fly.

While looking for something to ready I happened to notice that I now have seven shelves of fly tying books. I think I should tie better, but that's another story completely. Some of the books I enjoy the most about fly tying run from books that I bought when I first started tying my own flies and saving money, to books that are recent and have some cool new techniques and materials. Among the first books are quite a few about materials. I liked Eric Leiser's book "Fly-Tying Materials" a lot and again, it got me started down that road. I bought this book back in 1989; the book itself was published in 1973. Now material wise, that was a long time ago. Many of the materials we use today were not even available then - Whiting hackles, Zelon, Antron, lots of different hooks and threads, all new after the publish date of this book. But this book taught me a lot about materials. How to get some materials such as bird feathers, how to prepare those materials for use and how to keep them for long times without them being eaten by mites or ants or other material eating pests.

One of my favorite books about fly tying is Dave Hughes book "Wet Flies." This book

started me on the road to learning more about not only how to fish wet flies, but also how to tie and enjoy wet flies more. This book was my introduction into the unusual fly style called the Flymph...and flymphs are now one of my favorite flies to tie and fish. I like to fish them upstream like a dry fly and then let them float downstream from me like a wet fly. And as an added bonus, they catch fish. This book also got me looking for the holy grail about the flymph, the book by James Leisenring and Vernon Hidy, "The Art of Tying the Wet Fly & Fishing the Flymph." Truly, after a long time searching I finally found a copy in 2010; I cherish the copy I now enjoy reading and learning from.

Another book I could not be without is Gary Borger's "Presentation." I probably refer to this book more than any other in my library. Between Gary's notes about knots, leaders and casting tips, this book, which I purchased in May of 1995, is still teaching me, still inspiring me and still showing me little ideas and secrets of our sport. I consider this one of the all-time best books ever written.

One final book that continues to teach me is Gary LaFontaine's "Trout Flies." So many of his patterns were cutting edge when he shared them with us and they continue to be trout catching flies to this day. Gary introduced many new techniques and materials to the fly tying community. This book still shows me new uses of materials and ideas of how to substitute some materials for others and create some new patterns. And the interesting thing is that some of the new patterns actually catch fish.

So now is the time to sit down with a favorite fly fishing book and enjoy the quiet time. Tie some flies. Read about new patterns and techniques. Read some thoughts about this wonderful sport that we share. Maybe get into some new fly patterns. Maybe get some new ideas on fly presentation. Or maybe just spend some time reading one of your favorite books about life and fly fishing, reliving the start of your journey. Good luck and enjoy the adventure.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events

Coming Soon

Members School

The Member School is set for February 11, 2017 at the Royal Oak Middle School, 709 N. Washington Ave, Royal Oak, MI 48067. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and the school runs from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. including lunch, a chili cook-off and refreshments throughout the day. Spots are still available for both beginner and intermediate/advanced students. Beginners will go through equipment knots and basic tying, while the intermediate/advanced group will be immersed in tying and entomology. There is no cost to members, *but you must be a member to attend.* (Any violators will be flogged) To register contact Chris Hunter at 734-233-8025 or email chunter@bauerhunter.com

Noted

Recognition

A note of special recognition goes out to Jim Weakland for putting in extra time at the Kid's Fly Tying Booth at the three day Ultimate Fishing Show in Novi.

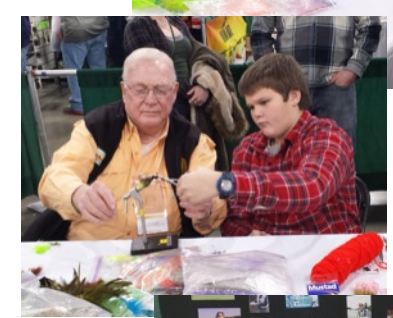
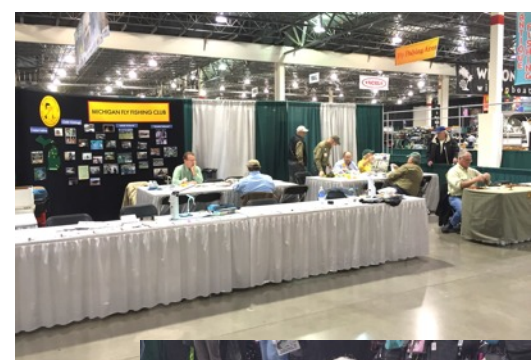


Jim Telinda Chairs

The Ultimate Fishing Show

We had a great time over the weekend at the Ultimate Fishing Show. Every year Showspan donates a large booth space to the club for us to tie flies for kids at the Ultimate Fishing Show as well as Outdoorama. We have proven to be an attraction at these shows over the years, parents and kids seek us out to tie a fly.

These events always start the tying year off with lots of practice and experience in describing to kids how to do it. Many thanks to all the volunteers who participated. We couldn't accomplish what we do without your donation of time and talent. This is great for beginning tyers also. To become a good tyer, takes practice and this an excellent venue to try what you have learned at the beginner table during activities meetings. Don't be afraid, just join in.



Much thanks to Jim Telinda for coordinating all the volunteers at The Ultimate Fishing Show - we could not make this work without your time and dedication to the event each year.