



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

March 2017

The Way Of The Fishing Ninja

By Sybil Hunter

“Can anyone tell me the fastest fish on Earth?” asked Roger Hinchcliff at the March MFFC speaker meeting.

“Steelhead,” came the answer from the back of the room. “They travel at 26 feet per second. That is fast,” said Hinchcliff, owner of steelheadmanifesto.com. “Does anyone know how long Steelhead can go without food?” Hinchcliff asked next. Silence. “Twelve. Months.”

When a fish comes to the river, their stomach shrinks. If you harvest a Steelhead, I catch and release, their stomach is empty,” said Hinchcliff. Also when they enter the river the fish are scaly, later they are smooth, this is because the Steelhead dissolve their own scales for nutrition.

“All fish have three different metabolisms,” said Hinchcliff. High metabolism fish have the shortest memory span. “During the spawn, a female Steelhead chooses by smelling the immune system of its mate.” This does not guarantee the chosen fertilization however, as seekers block the sperm of other fish. Littler fish sneak in, block out the sperm and fertilize the eggs themselves.

The guy with the random fly catches fish because he is throwing something different. “Fish have memories,” said

Hinchcliff of Small Mouth, Atlantic Salmon, Rainbow Trout and other salmonoid species. Given that Michigan waters are overfished, “30% of catching Steelhead is where you fish. The fish you catch are the high metabolism fish.”

When you arrive at your fishing spot, do not just plow into the water. Stop to study the water and the runs. “Sit down for a minute and just watch, learn...study the river. Study the run. Start casting close, and work your way out. Most Steelhead are caught in three to eight feet of water. Most Steelhead are eight to ten inches off the bottom. Position to present the fly down and across. Once you have casted out, immediately throw an upstream mend in your line.”



Color - Size - Profile - Depth. “Depth is critical,” Hinchcliff pointed out. “The number of mends to your line affects depth. You have to be a mad scientist on the river....a river ninja! Covering the run is very important. (Continued on Page 2)

MFFC Calendar



April 12, 2017

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Kelly Neuman

Topic: Au Sable - Mio to Oscoda

Clarenceville Middle School

Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

April 26, 2017

Activities Meeting

Clarenceville Middle School

Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

May 10, 2017

Activities Meeting

Clarenceville Middle School

Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

May 17, 2017

MFFC Annual Banquet

Speaker: Joe Humphreys

Italian American Center

5 Mile Road, Livonia.

June 14, 2017

Speaker Meeting

Costic Center, Farmington Hills



Good Show! Read on ->

(Continued from Page 1) You have to pick the run apart. The number one problem next to depth, is color and sizing.” Experiment with it. “If you learn those things, you will increase the number of fish you catch,” said Hinchcliff. “The guy losing the most flies, is catching the most fish.” Journal your catches. Note changes created by water events.

The Hang Or The Dangle. Cast a straight line then let it sit there, said Hinchcliff. “If Mr. Steelhead plays with it, don’t set the hook. Wait. Do not get impatient.” Put a loop in your line, let the fish take the fly and run out the line, “then set the hook when it (the line) is straight.”

“Drop the fly back and tease him,” said Hinchcliff. “I pay attention to the cadence of when I got bit. If you want to be the River Ninja, you have to pay attention to what go you bit, and repeat it. Sometimes that is pulling the fly away from the fish, and it’s game on.”

“If you go back to no bites, switch to a smaller fly. Let the hole rest, then go back with a smaller fly,” said Hinchcliff. Color, size and profile are everything.” Black flies absorb light. Light colors reflect light. “In sun, the fish cannot see your offering. Contrast is the key.” If there is wind ripple, fish florescent colors.

Carry a UV light into fly shops with you when buying flies. “UV is very important,” said Hinchcliff. “After it breaks the surface, it goes horizontal. Steelhead are the most color conscious fish on the plant Earth. Steelhead can see 24 different color hues. Color is important. Fishing Ninjas change colors constantly.” On the other hand, Steelhead have poor depth perception.

When tying flies, use white, pink, black, yellow, blue...”Blue is key,” said Hinchcliff, “in fall fishing for Steelhead, if there are leaves in the water, use blue.”

“I never fish the same river more than a week,” said Hinchcliff. “The best time to go is fall and spring, after the spawn. The fish who were not eating are starved. During the dropback phase, the fish are ferocious.”

When fishing Steelhead, the river water temperature (45 degrees +) is also very important, as is water flow and barometric pressure. “29.5 to 30.5 are the magic (barometric) numbers,” said Hinchcliff. “What you want is two days of the same weather.” He suggests apps like Fishhead for tracking these factors, because it is exactly these factors that cause bugs to chum, and fish to feed just before it rains. “Watch temp, weather, flows... as soon as the conditions create a rain, go fishing.”

Another good thing is an app that tracks moon phase. “During the blood moon in February is when the biggest Steelhead are caught,” said Hinchcliff. He also suggests Goggle Maps to track the river structure.

More advice: If the water is low, fish the edges. If the water is high, fish the middle. If the water is very high, fish the flood plane. “Wherever there is a bridge there is Steelhead. PERIOD.” Also, “Every boat ramp will have a run.” Remember the surface current is faster then the bottom current - that is why fish hang out at the bottom. “Tape the joints of your spey rod with a good quality electrical tape.” “If the seams are moving, move one foot over.” “Steelhead can see 300 degrees.” And don’t forget that, “There are some really moody, touchy, weird fish out there!”

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Members On The Fly

Around The World



The Clinton Valley Chapter
2017 Trout Unlimited Banquet
The Scotts, Hunters, Summers &
Rick Gosiewski



Richard Gosiewski
in Mexico





MFFC Business

Continue that way ->

A Historical Perspective

This is the first installment of an ongoing series of historical articles. The following excerpts are from the mid-summer 1980 edition of The Evening Hatch. This is a great place to begin our journey, the club is 10 years old and looking to set its direction for the future. Space is limited and we can not reprint the entire edition.

Bold Type indicates current members

President, Joe Wagensomer	Vice President, Bob Nicholson
Treasurer, Hal Schroeder	Corresponding Secretary, Greg Busacker
Recording Secretary, Bruce Strachan	Editor, Bruce Strachan

Objectives Committee Report (To the Board of Director, May 1980)

...the group did reach a consensus on objectives and activities which have been important to our members and have made the club successful for ten years. Our ad hoc group ranked the following objectives as the most important to the membership.

#1 Social Activities - Our informal meetings, club banquet and annual outing are highly valued....

#2 Education and Information - This is the dominate service provided to the membership and it holds the club together.....

#3 Promoting Fly Fishing - Participants agreed promoting fly fishing is an important club function... activities such as sponsoring speakers, encouraging club membership, the Bamboo Revival, and Tackleland and the MUICC shows, and press releases publicizing these activities are appropriate.

#4 Club Facilities - The library benefits all members and funding could be increased...Fly reels and lines owned by the club provide a necessary resource for casting classes and provide some minor equipment on a loan basis to members. However, the committee strongly discouraged purchasing additional equipment or acquiring in any manor, club property such as a club fishing lodge.

#5 Conservation - Long distances to our major trout streams with attendant problems of organization, travel and cost have mitigated against sustained club conservation activity. The Huron River project was successful primarily because of its proximity to Detroit and the small, enthusiastic corp of volunteers who made the project go....

The Chairman's View - The committee did a fine job of identifying what club members want and ... thanks Joe Wagensomer, Leonard Marciniak, Dick Jones, Hal Schroeder, Dan Drinan, Jack Brown and many others for their time and effort....

Contest Winners Selected!

"The first annual MFFC Rod Building and Fly Tying Contest Was held at the May 7 meeting. Gathering top honors for Fly Tying were Jack McClellan Jr., 1st place, Carl Nagy 2nd place, and Henry Williamowski 3rd place.

In the rod building feat, Hal Schroeder took 1st place with Tom Sewruck and Carl Nagy taking 2nd and 3rd places respectively. Honorable mentions went to Tim Florkowski, **Bruce Strachan**, Bill Zadorsky. Congratulations.....Jim Handley, contest organizer and chairman, ...Judges Dick Enger, **John Long**, Jim Mimnaugh, Frank Cupp.

Board Of Directors MeetNow for the lies! In the "one that got away" department, Bob Nicholson and **John Pinto** laminated about a York River Atlantic Salmon that got out of hand....

Activities Meeting: - April 26, 2017



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March Fly Of The Month

Flying In From Idaho

Halfback Emerger

By Todd A. Schotts

For this month's "Fly Of The Month" we headed to the land known for its spuds; yes that's right we are heading west to Idaho! The fly we will look at, is truly an amazing fly known as the Halfback Emerger, by famed fly tier and writer Mike Lawson.

Before we dive into the details on this amazing fly, here is the fishing report on Mike Lawson...Mike was born and raised in southeastern Idaho, where Mike and his wife are four generation Southern Idaho natives. He was originally a school teacher for six years, who guided during the summer months. Mike and his wife also tied flies commercially for many years. In 1977 they opened Henry's Fork Anglers Fly Shop in Last Chance, Idaho. Mike is a Signature Fly Designer for Umpqua and is also an accomplished writer. He has written two books *Fly Fishing the Henrys Fork* and *Spring Creeks*, plus many articles in various fly fishing and tying publications. He appeared in many videos fishing or tying his signature patterns. Mike is a founding member of Henry's Fork Foundation, along with life time membership of the FFF and Trout Unlimited. Besides the Halfback Emerger, some of Mike's other flies are the: Floating Nymph, Hemmingway



Caddis, and Brown Drake Lawson, just to name a few.

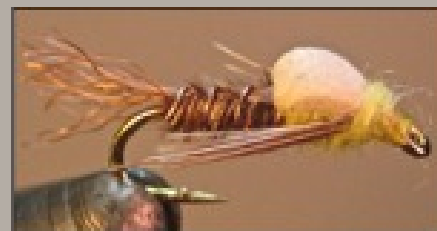
This astounding Halfback Emerger was developed in the late 1990's to represent an emerging mayfly particularly Blue Wing Olives and Pale Morning Duns. When tying this pattern, remember it is actually a shallow nymph presentation to the inhabitants of the watershed below. This means the fly pattern will be presented only in one to two inches below the water, making this an ideal emergence pattern. The original pattern was tied with a deer hair wing case, but closed cell craft foam can be substituted in its place. By doing this, it make the wing case a little more durable.

When fishing this pattern, you will want to avoid using an indicator or a dry fly when fishing this pattern as it will cause both patterns to have an unnatural drift. It is best to just use the nymph by itself and watching your line/leader connection for unusual movement - something similar to the technique that is used in High Sticking or European Nymphing. Remember, when fishing to the hatch, there is always more activity below the surface than what seen above, and this fly will be a total advantage in this situation. Until next month tight lines and snazzy flies.

Halfback Emerger



Deer hair version



Foam version

HOOK: TMC 100 size 18 to 20

THREAD: Olive or Yellow, 70 denier or 8/0

RIB: Small Copper Ultra Wire

SHUCK: Brown Z-Lon

WING CASE: Natural Medium Deer Hair or Tan Foam

ABDOMEN: Pheasant Tail

THORAX: Superfine Dubbing - BWO Olive or PMD Yellow

HEAD: Superfine Dubbing - BWO Olive or PMD Yellow



March Tier Of The Month

Ken Harfoot

Ken's Emerald Shiner

By Todd A. Schotts

Our March's Spotlight Featured Tier took us the land of Hollow Fleye's, not some strange journey to some unknown land like Alice in Wonderland, Land of the Lost, or even Land of Confusion by Genesis...but a unique method that to make your streamers the envy of everyone else on the water. So appearing once again at the famous round table of glory was master tier and fly designer Ken Harfoot. He brought us his deviation of this special technique called "Ken's Emerald Shiner."

If you are not familiar with Ken he joined MFFC around 1995, and started tying in 1996. Naturally it was to save money, just like rest of us tiers. He primarily fishes Michigan and Ohio waters, but has fished in Alaska for Dolly Vardens & Silver Salmon, and fished the many tributaries around Lake Superior. Here is what Ken wrote last year for the Spotlight/Featured Tier: "I owe all the success I have had to The Club. I have been privileged to be amongst what I call true sportsmen & women - people willing to share and

teach unselfishly. This sport we call "Fly Fishing" is a way of life and I am proud to be a participant." Just like last year, Ken brought us yet another great fly pattern.

The pattern Ken demonstrated, as I mentioned above, is a deviation of the Bob Popovics Hollow Fleye pattern. The originator of this design, Bob Popovics is the founder of the Atlantic Salt Water Flyrodders, advisory member of TFO rods, and a Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame and Catskill Fly Fishing Museum Hall of Fame inductee. He is the co-author of *Pop Fleyes* with Ed Jaworowski. Some of Bob's other innovations are the Surf Candy, Silicone, and Bob's Banger.

For this month's pattern there is a great technic for layering Bucktail to create a baitfish silhouette that slays predator fish. Bob Popovics found that by tying the bucktail on the hook in reverse and then propping it rearward with a wall of thread, he had infinite control over the angle of the bucktail. This technique allowed him to sculpt baitfish patterns using varying lengths and angles of bucktail. When tied in this manner, the cone of bucktail forms an outer layer that gives the fly its hollow appearance, as well as its name. This method should not be confused with the reverse-tied bucktail flies conceived by Carrie Stevens, and popularized by Keith Fulsher's Thunder Creek series. One of the cosmetic benefits of this style is the tiny, almost nonexistent head. Simple one-color Hollow Fleyes are effective, but Ken's tying method allows you to easily add other colors. Replace the primary color with a different color, or shade, of bucktail in the last bunch to create a gorgeous two-tone effect reminiscent of classic swimming plugs.

Current speed, baitfish types, densities, and other factors all come into play when

Ken's Emerald Shiner



HOOK: Mustad 3366 size 4

THREAD: fluorescent orange 140 denier

BODY: Bucktail green and white - Flashabou, holograph tinsel throughout

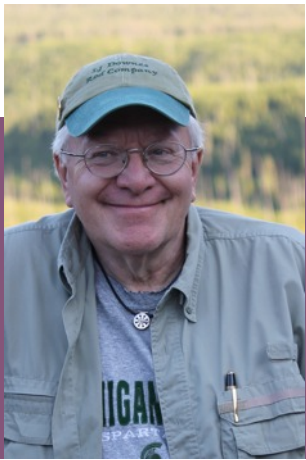
EYES: (Secret ingredient)

HEAD AND EYES: seal with UV Epoxy

choosing a presentation method. You can fish these flies dead-drifted, with a rapid strip-retrieve, slow and low on a fast-sinking line, or streaking across the surface on a floater.

So those who longed to enter the land of Hollow Fleye's, brought their vise, tools, and note taking materials to tie along with Ken. Until next month, tight lines and snazzy flies.





Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Guy

Al The Hackleman

What A Show

WOW.

What more can I say?

Another successful Midwest Fly Fishing Expo. Another example of why The Michigan Fly Fishing Club is such a wonderful organization - a shining example of why we are truly a great club to belong to and support.

I must say I sure enjoy seeing all the smiling faces at our show. Between the folks that arrive first thing each morning, and the ones that arrive a few hours later, they all smile when they walk in the front door. They all look around, gaze at the first few booths and start on their journey of discovery, fulfillment and fun. It is fun just standing and watching the looks on folks faces when they walk in the door. I can almost feel the excitement, can understand the enthusiasm, can relate to the expectations of finding something new, something that will maybe change and improve their fishing. Maybe I am putting my words and feeling onto others, but I feel quite sure we all have been there. It's a wonderful sense of fun and excitement when we all walk through that door each year. I must say, I do love it so much.

I got to enjoy some shared time with George Daniel this year. Acting as his introducer and shadow during the first day of the show was a truly fun experience. I got to share some time with George and we chatted about some details of his, and my, special leader formulas. How we each have some notes about how to build leaders for multiple fly casts, where we put the weighted fly and so on... Also about some secret spots that we enjoy fishing. And about what we each consider the best rod for fishing nymphs and wet flies. We compared some notes about what we like for indicators, or 'suspenders' as George calls them. I came away with some new ideas to try out this season and I hope

George did too. I have noted before that being one of the shadows and hosts is really a great job, and this year was one of the best yet. I even got George to autograph a copy of his *Dynamic Nymphing* book that I plan to donate to The Anglers of The AuSable banquet this year. Now THAT was a bonus.

I noticed we had some new vendors this year. That is always a good thing I think and I spoke with them all and spent some money too. Joyce and I both enjoyed chatting with the folks at Athena & Artemis Women's Fly Shop. It's great to see folks getting into the business. Joyce really enjoyed talking with them about women in fly fishing. For the past few years the growth in fly fishing has been women and it was good to see folks sort of specializing in that aspect of our sport. Ron's Fly Shop is another new vendor and it was good to see him at our show. Having been into his shop in downtown Grayling it was good to see him bring some new products and ideas to our show and to the sport in general.

One of the really neat things I noted was our very own Corey Thelen was in charge of the fly tyers area. Well done Corey. Young folks are the future of the sport and we need more of them. Between Corey and the Royal Oak High School Fly Fishing Club, it's so very good to see folks in MFFC step up to the plate and work for the future health of our sport and the streams we love.

The new hotel worked out great and everyone was friendly and helpful as needed. We have, over the years, sort of outgrown some of the hotels and it's always good to see that the new place is a bit nicer and more accommodating to our crazy crowd. Between great foods provided, and the nice red wine served at the bar, I enjoyed it a lot and really appreciated the professionalism shown by all those that took such good care of us.

So now starts the year long bummer of missing the show. It's another year in the book. Another year in the planning. Thanks to all that helped out. A special thanks to Jim Telinda. Stepping into some big shoes, he did a great

job and made sure things worked and ran properly. Thank you Jim. And another special thank you to Al Bulszewicz. Without her efforts, and lots of looking ahead work, we would not have had such a superb hotel for our hospitality side of the show. That is always one of the very special parts of our show and she truly pulled off a great improvement. Thank you Al. Of course there are all the other efforts that make this show so special. From the set-up crew that does such a great job each year, to the club room folks, the club booth folks that hand out information about our club, the behind the scenes folks that do so much to make us successful and don't get recognized, to the folks that spend Sunday evening tearing it all down and storing it properly so we can use all our stuff next time, THANK YOU. THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS AND GOOD WORK.

One note about the work. I noted that some areas were a bit understaffed at times. Now that did not hurt the show overall, but it did effect some of the presentations. It made some of us that were introducing speakers make some extra efforts. It all went well, but folks were missed at some work stations. So all MFFC members need to keep that in mind and step up and sign up next year when the time comes. We are all in this together, and we all need to step up and help out in our own ways at each Expo.

And to all members of The Michigan Fly Fishing Club, THANK YOU, for being such a wonderful group of folks. See you all next year. I am already looking forward to it.



New Vendor Bob Batchik of Sunfish Woodworks, Sylvan Lake, MI



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events

Robert Mifsud

Hardy Rod Winner

Robert Mifsud, from Redford, MI, winner of the Hardy rod and reel giveaway at this year's Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, said the night before the Expo, "I was watching a documentary on Hardy...then the next day I won one!"

New to fly fishing, Mifsud saw a posting about the Expo at Schultz Outfitters in Ypsilanti, he then decided that would be a great place to see what the sport was all about. Welcome Robert! We hope to see you again!



Many Thanks!

Kid's Korner

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to all who volunteered in the Kids Korner at the Expo! We saw a record breaking number of kids (over 280) throughout the weekend! Between making t-shirts, tying flies, and casting the fly rod there was, at times, waiting room only! We had a drawing each day for a fly rod. As the winners were called, you could hear the squeal of excitement over the phone! Thank you all again, we could not have done it without our wonderful MFFC volunteers! -Joyce Haxton and John Bayerl

We asked for written comments from the kids/parents; here are a few:
"The kid area is why my Dad & I came this year"
"Wonderful T-shirt & help"
"Love tying flies"

Welcome

New Members

Welcome New MFFC Members: Brent Cieszynski of Plymouth; Dave Lockwood of Beverly Hills; Larry Paquin of Manchester; John Warren of Oxford; Katheryn Crummey of Shelby Twp.; Joe Grabowski of China; Shawn Peterson and Tracci Peterson of Hearland; and Laura Hagan of Ann Arbor!

