



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

APRIL 2013

Fishing The Rifle River

Written by Sybil Hunter

"It's a very user friendly stream," said Mike Bachelder about the Rifle River, guide and owner of Bachelder Spool & Fly in West Branch, MI. "There is little pressure in the summer months... You will catch fish as long as you take your time. It's not a big stream. It ranges from fifteen to sixty feet wide," says Mike, "but it still has areas that are more technical. If you like to walk, pack a backpack, a sandwich and a drink, the small tributaries off the Rifle are awesome!"

The local canoe livery closed within the last year, so the river has very little traffic.

"There is never enough to bother my fishing," said Mike. "As you get down towards Sterling there is more traffic... but most of the traffic is residents." The length of the river is private property so you can fish the whole thing.

"Expect a long trip if you fish below M55," said Mike. "The river snakes back and forth. Yeah, it's only two miles (to the next public access point), but it's more like eight! Because of the way river winds around!"

"Fish range from five inches to over fifteen inches," on the Rifle River, and the fish vary, "They are leftovers from other sources." According to Mike, there are pike, smallmouth bass, brookies, rainbow and even steelhead from time to time. "A seventeen and three quarters inch brookie was the largest I ever caught on the Rifle River," said Mike.

Dry flies, sulfurs and streamers are the flies of choice for this river. "Streamer fishing is



easy...not huge casts, not long casts, and you don't have to have a boat." He confirmed, "Yellow seems to work best," on the Rifle River but "...one of the best flies I have found is the cone head marabou black and olive."

"Fish sulfurs," Mike also suggests. "The hatch is usually around the mid to end of May. I don't fish mayflies so much because they poison from time to time." This kills most of the mayflies on the Rifle River.

Any way you cut it, the Rifle River is a good reproductive environment. "I've seen steelhead spawning as late as June," said Mike. "Normally the steelhead run around tax season. I tell people that when the suckers move in, there are no steelhead," said Mike jokingly, further explaining that it gives him undisturbed time to fish the river himself. "I tell people to fish with a foot and a half bobber when the suckers are present. The suckers are at the bottom. The trout are up top." *continued on page 2*

UPCOMING EVENTS



April 10, 2013

Speaker: Glenn Weisner

Topic: Spring Steelhead

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

April 24, 2013

Activities Meeting

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

May 8, 2013

Speaker: Wayne Snyder

Topic: Coaster Trout Isle

Royal

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

May 16, 2013

Club Banquet

2013

Fishing The Rifle River

Written by Sybil Hunter "It's a very user friendly stream," said Mike Bachelder about the Rifle River, guide and owner of Bachelder Spool & Fly in West Branch, MI. "There is little pressure in the summer months....You will catch fish as long as you take your time. It's not a big stream. It ranges from fifteen to sixty feet wide," says Mike, "but it still has areas that are more technical. If you like to walk, pack a backpack, a sandwich and a drink, the small tributaries off the Rifle are awesome!"

The local canoe livery closed within the last year, so the river has very little traffic. "There is never enough to bother my fishing," said Mike. "As you get down towards Sterling there is more traffic...but most of the traffic is residents." The length of the river is private property so you can fish the whole thing.

"Expect a long trip if you fish below M55," said Mike. "The river snakes back and forth. Yeah, it's only two miles (to the next public access point), but it's more like eight! Because of the way river winds around!"

"Fish range from five inches to over fifteen inches," on the Rifle River, and the fish vary, "They are leftovers from other sources." According to Mike, there are pike, smallmouth bass, brookies, rainbow and even steelhead from time to time. "A seventeen and three quarters inch brookie was the largest I ever caught on the Rifle River," said Mike.

Dry flies, sulfurs and streamers are the flies of choice for this river. "Streamer fishing is easy...not huge casts, not long casts, and you don't have to have a boat." He continued, "Yellow seems to work best," on the Rifle River but "...one of the best flies I have found is the cone head marabou black and olive."

"Fish sulfurs," Mike also suggests. "The hatch is usually around the mid to end of May. I don't fish mayflies so much because they poison from time to time." This kills most of the mayflies on the Rifle River.

Any way you cut it, the Rifle River is a good reproductive environment. "I've seen steelhead spawning as late as June," said Mike. "Normally the steelhead run around tax season. I tell people that when the suckers move in, there are no steelhead," said Mike jokingly, further explaining that it gives him undisturbed time to fish the river himself. "I tell people to fish with a foot and a half bobber when the suckers are present. The suckers are at the bottom. The trout are up top." continued on page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 10, 2013 Speaker: Glenn Weisner Topic: Spring Steelhead Clarenceville Middle School Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

April 24, 2013 Activities Meeting Clarenceville Middle School Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

May 8, 2013 Speaker: Wayne Snyder Topic: Coaster Trout Isle Royal Clarenceville

Middle School Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

May 16, 2013 Club Banquet



Michigan Fly Fishing Club
 P.O. Box 530861
 Livonia, MI 48153

2012 - 2013 Officers

President:
Christopher Hunter
president@mffc.org
 734-207-0575

Vice President:
Dan Finstad
vp@mffc.org
 248-650-0172

Corresponding Secretary:
Mike Doyle
 248-363-5018

Recording Secretary:
Mike Schotts
 248-338-9379

Treasurer:
Scott Freeburg
treasurer@mffc.org
 248-366-6783

Membership:
Dave Nowicki
dn44213@gmail.com
membership@mffc.org
 734-981-3396

Immediate Past President:
Bruce Kramer
 248-672-9056

At-Large Directors:
Todd Schotts
 313-348-9101

Eric Center
 248-363-3861

Spencer Vanderhoof
 248-974-4235

Hatch Editor: Sybil Hunter

continued from page 1
 Officially opening the floor to questions, Mike addressed additional club member inquiries. Fishers must be aware there is a gravel and cobblestone bottom, and other areas with a boulder and slate bottom, so things can become quite slippery. Also, there are areas of the river that are in flux. "Since the emerald ash bore moved into the area, trees are dying, changing the river. It

changes the river - for the better," says Mike, "causing new eddies and pools."

When asked if he fished terrestrials on the Rifle River, Mike said, "I fish The Thing, size 12. It's a cross between a grasshopper and a stone fly." But his biggest piece of advice? "Don't be discouraged from one day to another," assures Mike, "the fishing changes from day to day."

Caught In The Act



This is wonderful. It was getting late Sunday and all the club rods etc. were put away, but this fella and his son were hanging around. It became obvious that the kid really wanted to try casting... We spotted Michael Mauri and he came over to give the kid his first lesson! Mauri had the kid popping it out there in no time... I speak a little Deutsch so I thanked him in German and wished him and his wife Eine Gute Reise... Basically good trip home. On my way out, I saw the kid and his dad by the door and asked the kid if he knew who that was. He said no so I told him Michael Mauri

was probably one of the more skilled casters in the whole room! He got his first lesson from a pro and is probably hooked... Fun intended. The kid was grinning ear-to-ear.

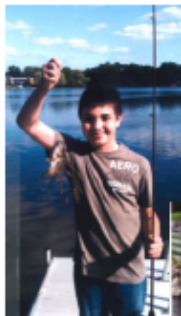
Photo and text submitted by Spencer Vanderhoof



Boy Scout Merit Badge School

Mark your calendar for April 20, 2013. Jeff McGowan, Kevin Lipp, Dirk Fishback, Bruce Kramer and many others over the years have made the Scouting Merit Badge School a success. Now it's your turn. The school is filling up quickly, and we need Club members to help teach the Merit Badge requirements.

Please contact Bruce Kramer or Dave Oakley to volunteer for this event. We will be teaching Scouts about fishing, ethics, knots, casting, tying, entomology, safety, regulations, filleting and cooking fish. The pond is stocked and ready to produce, so we hope to get as many Scouts certified as possible. Parking passes and lunch are provided to volunteers.



!

Michigan Fly Fishing Club P.O. Box 530861 Livonia, MI 48153

2012 – 2013 Officers

President: Christopher Hunter president@mffc.org 734-207-0575

Vice President: Dan Finstad vp@mffc.org 248-650-0172

Corresponding Secretary: Mike Doyle 248-363-5018

Recording Secretary: Mike Schotts 248-338-9379

Treasurer: Scott Freeburg treasurer@mffc.org 248-366-6783

Membership: Dave Nowicki dn44213@gmail.com membership@mffc.org 734-981-3396

Immediate Past President: Bruce Kramer 248-672-9056

At-Large Directors: Todd Schotts 313-348-9101

Eric Center 248-363-3861

Spencer Vanderhoof 248-974-4235

Hatch Editor: Sybil Hunter

!

continued from page 1 Officially opening the floor to questions, Mike addressed additional club member inquiries. Fishers must be aware there is a gravel and cobblestone bottom, and other areas with a boulder and slate bottom, so things can become quite slippery. Also, there are areas of the river that are in flux. "Since the emerald ash bore moved into the area, trees are dying, changing the river. It

Boy Scout Merit Badge School

Mark your calendar for April 20, 2013. Jeff McGowan, Kevin Lipp, Dirk Fishback, Bruce Kramer and many others over the years have made the Scouting Merit Badge School a success. Now it's your turn. The school is filling up quickly, and we need Club members to help teach the Merit Badge

requirements.

Please contact Bruce Kramer or Dave Oakley to volunteer for this event. We will be teaching Scouts about fishing, ethics, knots, casting, tying, entomology, safety, regulations filleting and cooking fish. The pond is stocked and ready to produce, so we hope to get as many Scouts certified as possible. Parking passes and lunch are provided to volunteers.

Caught In The Act

This is wonderful...It was getting late Sunday and all the club rods etc. were put away, but this fella and his son were hanging around. It became obvious that the kid really wanted to try casting...We spotted Michael Mauri and he came over to give the kid his first lesson! Mauri had

the kid popping it out there in no time...I speak a little Deutsch so I thanked him in German and wished him and his wife Eine Gute Reise....Basically good trip home. On my way out, I saw the kid and his dad by the door and asked the kid if he knew who that was. He said no so I told him Michael Mauri

was probably one of the more skilled casters in the whole room! He got his first lesson from a pro and is probably hooked...Pun intended. The kid was grinning ear-to-ear.

Photo and text submitted by Spencer Vanderhoof

changes the river - for the better," says Mike, "causing new eddies and pools."

When asked if he fished terrestrials on the Rifle River, Mike said, "I fish The Thing, size 12. It's a cross between a grasshopper and a stone fly." But his biggest piece of advice? "Don't be discouraged from one day to another," assures Mike, "the fishing changes from day to day."

Recognition Of Support From Our Vendors

Submitted by Joe Sprys

Thanks to all who participated in the 2013 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo. The Expo was another VERY successful event for the Michigan Fly Fishing Club. Kudos to all of the Club volunteers, the vendors, speakers and to our guests – without whom we wouldn't have a show!

Several of our vendors were especially helpful this year and deserve special recognition: Simms Fishing and our contact Tony Ferrie provided a great deal of Simms "swag" for us to give away as well as a beautiful pair of Simms G3 waders and Simms jackets; Scott Fly Rods and Jerry Darkes supported us with Scott 9' 5wt A4 rods for the door prizes each day of the Expo;

and Jonathan Knapp at Solitude reels helped us with the beautiful Solitude 2 reels that paired with the Scott rods for the daily drawing. The reels completed a beautiful \$700 outfit that any fly fisher would be proud to own!

Last, but certainly not least, is Bill Keough at Keough Hackle. Bill has been so supportive over all the years that he has attended the Expo, and this year was no exception. Bill has a special spot in his heart for the kids and has provided us with materials for the Kids Tying Area, as well as door prize giveaways. He's always been a huge supporter of our Club, and I encourage any of you that run into Bill to thank him personally for his generosity.

Please consider all of these vendors and brands when you do your shopping for fly fishing gear and tying items – they have all supported us and it's nice to return the favor!



2013 MFFC Midwest Fly Fishing Expo



Next year we put them in the pond

The Original Bone Fishers

The Original Bone Fishers

Next year we put them in the pond

Recognition Of Support From Our Vendors

Submitted by Joe Sprys Thanks to all who participated in the 2013 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo. The Expo was another VERY successful event for the Michigan Fly Fishing Club. Kudos to all of the Club volunteers, the vendors, speakers and to our guests – without whom we wouldn't have a show!

Several of our vendors were especially helpful this year and deserve special recognition: Simms Fishing and our contact Tony Ferrie provided a great deal of Simms “swag” for us to give away as well as a beautiful pair of Simms G3 waders and Simms jackets; Scott Fly Rods and Jerry Darkes supported us with Scott 9' 5wt A4 rods for the door prizes each day of the Expo;

2013 MFFC Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

and Jonathan Knapp at Solitude reels helped us with the beautiful Solitude 2 reels that paired with the Scott rods for the daily drawing. The reels completed a beautiful \$700 outfit that any fly fisher would be proud to own!

Last, but certainly not least, is Bill Keough at Keough Hackle. Bill has been so supportive over all the years that he has attended the Expo, and this year was no exception. Bill has a special spot in his heart for the kids and has provided us with materials for the Kids Tying Area, as well as door prize giveaways. He's always been a huge supporter of our Club, and I encourage any of you that run into Bill to thank him personally for his generosity.

Please consider all of these vendors and brands when you do your shopping for fly fishing gear and tying items – they have all supported us and it's nice to return the favor!

Tying A Better Albright

Submitted by John Long

Probably the two most common knots for connecting fly lines to backing are the Albright and the nail knots. The Albright is arguably the strongest, but the inherent offset between the fly line and the backing has always bothered me, even when finished with a couple of half litches. The nail knot is okay for most fresh water fishing, but for heavy fresh or salt water fishing I like the Albright using 30 lb. test backing.

One day while driving on a long trip, I had, a revelation for a method to tie the Albright with absolutely no offset. It takes only a little longer, but I really like the results. It can be tied directly over the fly line or over just the fly line core, giving a smaller diameter finished knot. I prefer to remove some of the fly line coating

and tie the Albright on the fly line core.

Start by removing about a half inch of the fly line coating. A brief soak in nail polish remover works well for this. Next, use a pin or needle to poke a hole thru the fly line core about 1/8 inch below the end of the coating. A little bit of heat on the needle will make the braid of the core stay open. If you are using 20 lb. backing, just thread a needle with an eye large enough to get the backing through it, then heat won't be necessary. If you are using 30 lb. backing, coat about half an inch of the backing with super glue, wait a few minutes and it will be stiff enough to trim the tip at an angle then poke thru the hole.

Once the backing is thru the fly line core, begin tying the Albright starting where the fly line coating ends. I

usually use about seven or eight turns. Pull the knot tight, a little at a time, while positioning the final wraps close to the hole where the backing emerges from the core. When the wraps are even and tight, trim the tag end flush. As a final touch, coat the knot with Zap-A-Gap super glue. You now have the same strong Albright knot but it will be smoother with virtually no offset and no finishing half-litches will be needed.

If you change fly lines frequently on the same reel, tie about a one inch loop in the reel backing. Then tie a two to three foot length backing to each fly line using the Albright with a loop in the other end large enough for the reel to pass through, enabling a loop to loop connection. I like using figure eight knotted loops. Trim the tag ends flush and use Zap-A-Gap on these knots also.



MICHIGAN FLY FISHING CLUB
P.O. Box 530861
Livonia, MI 48153

Tying A Better Albright

Submitted by John Long Probably the two most common knots for connecting fly lines to backing are the Albright and the nail knots. The Albright is arguably the strongest, but the inherent offset between the fly line and the backing has always bothered me, even when finished with a couple of half hitches. The nail knot is okay for most fresh water fishing, but for heavy fresh or salt water fishing I like the Albright using 30 lb. test backing.

One day while driving on a long trip, I had, a revelation for a method to tie the Albright with absolutely no offset. It takes only a little longer, but I really like the results. It can be tied directly over the fly line or over just the fly line core, giving a smaller diameter finished knot. I prefer to remove some of the fly line coating

and tie the Albright on the fly line core.

Start by removing about a half inch of the fly line coating. A brief soak in nail polish remover works well for this. Next, use a pin or needle to poke a hole thru the fly line core about 1/8 inch below the end of the coating. A little bit of heat on the needle will make the braid of the core stay open. If you are using 20 lb. backing, just thread a needle with an eye large enough to get the backing through it, then heat won't be necessary. If you are using 30 lb. backing, coat about half an inch of the backing with super glue, wait a few minutes and it will be stiff enough to trim the tip at an angle then poke thru the hole.

Once the backing is thru the fly line core, begin tying the Albright starting where the fly line coating ends. I

Livonia, MI 48153

P.O. Box 530861

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING CLUB

usually use about seven or eight turns. Pull the knot tight, a little at a time, while positioning the final wraps close to the hole where the backing emerges from the core. When the wraps are even and tight, trim the tag end flush. As a final touch, coat the knot with Zap-A-Gap super glue. You now have the same strong Albright knot but it will be smoother with virtually no offset and no finishing half-hitches will be needed.

If you change fly lines frequently on the same reel, tie about a one inch loop in the reel backing. Then tie a two to three foot. length backing to each fly line using the Albright with a loop in the other end large enough for the reel to pass through, enabling a loop to loop connection. I like using figure eight knotted loops. Trim the tag ends flush and use Zap-A-Gap on these knots also.