

# Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club NOVEMBER 2013

## Insights On Spey Casting

"It's just fishing," said Glen Blackwood, opening November's MFFC speaker meeting. "If you can swing a soft hackle for trout, you can swing two-handed rods for steelhead. We build this by layer and experience. It's nothing more than swinging a fly."

"We use tips, and some sort of sinking line," Blackwood continued, suggesting three feet of weighted leader. The line needs to sink six feet because steelhead eat them coming up. "Fish will come to the fly in the right water temperature."

"For two-handed casting...the energy is in a glorified roll cast. You can have success with a single, or two-handed rod." Blackwood suggests single-handed rods be 11 feet or less, and designed to cast with an aerialized line. Two-handed rods range from short: 11 feet to 12.5 feet, to long: 10.6 feet to 12.6 feet, to even longer rods ranging from 12.6 feet to 16 feet. Long rods are made for casting with water loads.

When casting a one-handed rod, strip casting is used, versus casting with a spey rod, or two-handed rod, where the line is lifted, rolled, and is strictly a water load cast...using water tension and the spring of the rod to cast." Efficiency is key.

The line is important as well. Blackwood suggests Rio Skagit ([www.rioproducts.com](http://www.rioproducts.com)) or Scandinavian Fishing Line ([www.scandinavianflylines.com](http://www.scandinavianflylines.com)) spey lines.



He passed sample lines around for club members to pull out and assess. Skagit line comes from Europe, even though it's really U.S. designed. "It's very easy for beginners to cast."

Blackwood says to "use a deep rolling cast so your sink tip never goes greater than half of your weight grain. Scandinavian lines are tapered in the front, with a head length two and a half to three times the length of the fly rod. "There is much more transfer of energy."

When transferring that energy, Blackwood says, "Remember the key to fishing for steel head is depth and speed....and finding an alpha, dominant, aggressive, male, fish. It doesn't matter how you get it out there. Just get it out there."

Blackwood advises the key to swinging a spey line is "Fly depth: keeping the fly in

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**November 20, 2013**  
**Activities Meeting**  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

**December 4, 2013**  
**Speaker: Ann Miller**  
**Topic: Midwest Entomology**  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Livonia, 7:30

**December 18, 2013**  
**Activities Meeting**  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

**January 8, 2014**  
**Speaker: Kevin Morlock**  
**Topic: Chasing Carp on The Beaver Island Flats**  
Clarenceville Middle School  
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

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fly fishing co.

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Blackwood advises the key to swinging a spey line is "Fly depth: keeping the fly in target or strike zone, and fly speed: the lower the water temperature, the slower the swing. A fish will never expend anymore energy then they get from eating."

Also, "Don't give up on your dangle. Use a jiggly motion. Hang on for thirty seconds....don't wait too long, but don't give up on your dangle."

Lastly he addressed spey flies. "Fly patterns really don't matter if your flies keep depth and speed, but patterns should still have motion without movement, body without bulk, and be of length with small diameter," advises

Blackwood. "They should shimmer, shake and are sexy. They are soft but sway - very sensual, very alluring....enticing, but not dead in the water."

When tying spey flies, Blackwood suggests fox, blue ear pheasant, some marabou, and other wispy materials with undulations. He also suggests that you don't weight nymphs. "Weighted nymphs give a false sense of security. They give the illusion that we are in the target zone, but we really aren't."

Before he left, Blackwood passed out a one page outline of spey fishing recommended rod set-ups, and a list of recommended print resources all available at his shop.



Glen Blackwood  
on spey casting

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**

The GLC Fly Tying Expo is Dec. 7, 2013.

We are in need of volunteers to help thought out the day.

As a show of support we would like to see at least 2 Volunteers from each GLC Club.

Volunteers working a 2 hour shift receive free admission and lunch.

GLC clubs with 2 or more volunteers will receive GLC 25th Anniversary Print.

Volunteers please contact:

Terry Greiner at [tlgreiner@comcast.net](mailto:tlgreiner@comcast.net)

517-694-5358

or

Mark Johnson at [dataplex@acd.net](mailto:dataplex@acd.net)

517-351-7594

# SUMMER FLY FISHING FUN

By Todd A. Schotts

As the warm light rain poured over me, I could hear the rustling of the cattails and reeds as the lake's larger residents chase the smaller inhabitants of this pristine lake in the shallows. With a precise cast toward the rustling, my leader let my fly flutter to the surface. Then without warning, the cattails and reeds moved quickly. With a loud splash, my line tightened with one of the lakes nice sized residents. It tried to dance its way off my line, but the battle ensued.

This type of fishing is enjoyable. Mine took place a few summers ago when we had the extreme heat and low water conditions. This takes me back to my childhood, growing up on a lake and learning how to use a fly rod with a foam spider for the first time. The year started out rainy, with extremely high and fast waters, causing dangerous wading conditions. Then as if someone flipped a switch, we went from rain to the extreme heat. With that, I dusted off my belly boat. Along with a few others of my fellow Michigan Fly Fishing Club members we found this excellent warm water fishery, however, due to total secrecy we have been instructed to say, "What Lake?" "GPS Coordinates? Don't remember," "I don't know," "Name of the lake? I don't recall."

In telling this story, identities will be secured. Names will take on the aspect of the classic 1992 Quentin Tarantino movie "Reservoir Dogs" where a group of mobsters used colors (like Mr. Red, or Mr. Yellow, etc.) as they made botched a Jewelry heist. Since this is a fly fishing story (nothing being botched for sure), I will use fly names instead of colors - Mr. Popper, Mr. Predator, Mr. Sparrow, and Mr. Gurgler.

When we arrived at this unique wonderful fishery, Mr. Popper (our esteemed host), instructed us in what to take with us. As I, Mr. Predator, inflated my vessel, Mr. Sparrow instructed Mr. Gurgler how to use his vessel, since this was his first time in

a belly boat. With our gear and water crafts rigged, the heavens opened up, and blessed us with a steady warm rain. Being I was already wet, I decided to follow Mr. Popper, down to the field of battle, Mr. Gurgler and Mr. Sparrow were no where to be seen. They decided to get out of the rain, hiding in the dry conditions inside their vehicle. Mr. Popper was already fishing and bringing in a real nice Largemouth Bass as I entered into the water after getting into my fins. After the second cast, I caught a real nice Crappie that made a battle pursue. With Mr. Popper and myself casting and catching fish in the light rain, Mr. Sparrow and Mr. Gurgler finally entering the pristine waters of our secret fishing spot. As Mr. Sparrow was getting into the water, Mr. Gurgler fished from shore, pulling in nice size Crappies. By this time I was coming to a real nice area to cast to, and as I made a cast with my Mr. Maggoo Foam Orange Diver, I was surprised by a real nice hit. After a lengthy battle I brought in a real nice Largemouth. Mr. Popper then headed back toward the far corner, while Mr. Gurgler finally ventured into his watercraft to try his luck at this type of fishing. With my trusty finns on, I moved around the island, with one nice cast my line went tight. A huge splash followed. After a very short battle, this monster was released back into the pristine water (known as a long distance release- LDR).

I saw Mr. Sparrow as he came around the other side of the island, and I sent him to the area where I lost the fish. I was coming up to a real nice area of lilly pads and deep water. With a couple of casts, I finally landed my fly where I wanted it to be and had a taker. A Largemouth Bass demonstrated his dancing ability by making many leaps before I finally subdued this pristine Bass. He was a real nice sized and healthy, around 16 inches plus. Wow what a Bass! I ended up landing more of these residents from this same area.

As I was heading back to Mr. Popper, Mr. Gurgler headed back toward the the area I left. Mr. Sparrow was still fishing around the island, but would eventually propel his

watercraft to the area where Mr. Popper and the rest of us were located. What an awesome site to see! Mr. Popper was busy bringing in bass after bass, which would probably make Kevin Van Dam jealous.

A screeching sound, bellowed out from the wooded area by one of the many farm fields that were in our view. It was eerie, scary, and intriguing. We then saw a long legged creature appear, we realized sand hill cranes were in the area.

With a real nice cast, Mr. Gurgler had a taker from this pristine lake, and after a brief battle, it ended with another LDR. After more casting and more fun, Mr. Gurgler decided to get out of his water craft, due to leg cramps. He did this without taking the front bar out, which made this scenario interesting viewing. Mr. Gurgler ended up taking a dive onto the bank. After much discussion, he informed us after he saw Mr. Sparrow remove his front bar to get out, that he wasn't instructed fully on how to use his watercraft. We all had a few chuckles at Mr. Gurgler's expense - all in good fun.

After the clouds parted, the sun came out and the fishing tapered off. With this change, I put on a fly I tied from the Panfish and Bass Book, created by Warm water guru, Tom Lentz. It is called Marabou Miss. This fly is a weighted wet fly to get down to the depths of the lake. With my trusty fly rod loaded with this arsenal, I made a cast, and after having much fun with different panfish, I had a taker that made my 4 weight (Yes I said 4 weight, as I had grabbed the wrong rod.) arc like a rainbow. This lake inhabitant didn't want to show itself. After a lengthy battle, I brought in a WHOPPER of a Crappie. Marveling at how huge this Crappie was, I released him back into the waters forgetting to take a picture. Trust me, I heard it from the whole group, and I wish to this day that I would have taken the picture. We ended the day, sitting in the shade, and discussing our wonderful fishing experience over some salty pistachios and ice cold beverages. Until next time, Tight Lines & Snazzy Flies.

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## Give Me Your Submissions

Want to be featured in The Evening Hatch? Can do! Please feel free to submit articles, blog entries, ideas, emails, pictures, fly patterns, and other input to The Evening Hatch editor, Sybil Hunter. You can reach me at: [evening.hatch.mffc@gmail.com](mailto:evening.hatch.mffc@gmail.com).



# Michigan Fly Fishing Club Minutes

## September 2013

Call To Order: 7:30pm

Roll Call: Hunter; Bocks; Thelen; Freeburg; Schotts; Vanderhoof; Scott; Finstad

Approval Of Minutes – Change Made And Approved By Board  
Freeburg – Second Vanderhoff

Approval Of Agenda – Motion To Approve Schotts – Second Scott

### Officer Reports

President – Hunter

Review Of Roberts Rules And Club Charter Given To New Board Members.  
Also New Board Thanked For Volunteering And Welcomed To The Board.  
Fly Fishing Certification Program Will Be implemented this year.

Vice President – Finstad

Expo Speaker Update: Five Speakers currently under contract .

Treasurer – Freeburg

Conservation Reserve Fund Can Be Raised By Board Per section 9 of  
Club constitution.  
Vandehoff motion to accept report – second Bocks

Corresponding Secretary – Vanderhoof

Constant Contact offers discount to increase members allowed on site.  
Motion made to approve monies for decreased annual fees for Constant  
Contact. Motion By Freeburg – Second Schotts

Discussion on possible website administrator and trouble converting  
information which causes the Hatch to appear grainy.

### Events And Outings

Garage sale – Tabled to be brought up at General Membership Meeting.  
Smallmouth Outing will be May 16, 17, 18 and headed by Todd Schotts.  
Club calendar set for year and posted on website.

### New Business

Steve Bock stated 50 people at booth for Dexter Show and will do again.  
Banquet Committee needs a chair and possibility of two people so that replacement is up to speed.  
Outdoor Rama & Ultimate Fishing Show have tiers lined up for both shows.

Calendars – Linda Bock showed calendars to board; Hunter made motion to approve monies for calendars  
which is a self funded project. Motion seconded by Scott. Motion passed

Club Historian – Infant stage and a work in progress. Chair Mike Scott.

Need for credit card machine at Expo; tabled until next board meeting.

### Visitor Comments

Al Haxton requested that the Au Sable and Manistee cleanup be placed  
on Club calendar for next year. Dates are Saturday after Labor Day For the AuSable and one week  
later for the Manistee. Discussion on the Club sponsoring a stretch of rivers for clean up.

Adjournment Motion– Freeburg – Second– Scott

## SOFT HACKLE PATTERN

NAME: March Brown Spider

CREATOR: Sylvester Nemes

HOOK: heavy wire, standard length, sizes 16 to 12.

THREAD: Orange 6/0 or 8/0.

RIB: Oval gold tinsel.

BODY: Hare's mask, dubbed.

HACKLE: Mottled-brown hen saddle (hen back) or natural-brown partridge flank (the hen is much easier to handle than the partridge). Strip the lower side of the feather. Wind it back towards the body in three or four turns; then wind the thread forward through it to toughen it.



*Pattern Courtesy of Skip Morris*

<http://www.skip-morris-fly-tying.com>

*Used with permission.*



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