



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

October 2017

Fishing Fall Brown Trout

By Sybil Hunter

“Brown Trout actually spawn in the fall time,” said Katie Ferner, Orvis Fishing Manager, instructor and guide. “They get pretty aggressive and are bulking up for the winter.” October through December is spawning time for these fish. So what do you throw at them? Eggs. “Rainbow and Brown Trout loooooove to eat fish eggs,” said Ferner. “That’s what they do.”

For those of you who do not know how to tell the gender of a fish? “A female, it’s kinda stub nosed and not gross,” said Ferner amid spreading laughter. “They are beautiful. Males develop a larger lower jaw called a kype. That kype grows as they get older,” said Ferner. “Who ever has the biggest kype always wins.”

“I thought size didn’t matter...” echoed from the back of the room.

“Each one has different, unique spots,” said Ferner pointing out that a person can actually *tell* if they’ve caught a particular Brown Trout before. “The blue hue is a trademark for a natural in-river fish (Brown Trout). The blue spot on their cheek (around the gill) means they lived in the river all their life. If they are from a lake, they are more silver, and duller in color.”



“Keep the fish in the water for pictures,” said Ferner. “Their colors dull if you take them out of the water for even a minute.”

Wherever you fish, always take a stream thermometer. “Having a stream thermometer is important. If the water is 70 degrees or higher, just go for a walk. There is not enough dissolved oxygen in the water for the fish to recover after being caught.”

Trout spawn in water between 42 and 48 degrees. “When the fish are spawning, they use their tails to create a redd,” said Ferner. They are cleaning out the area for eggs to be laid. In doing so, they toss up nymphs. Hex Nymphs are in mucky waters. “Don’t be afraid to throw a large egg in dirty water. If it’s muddy, throw the biggest egg you’ve got.”

When fishing for Browns in the fall, Ferner suggests taking egg flies, sizes 6-12 in any of the 30 different color
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MFFC Calendar



November 1, 2017

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Steve Galetta

Topic: Fly Fishing Tailwaters

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

November 15, 2017

Activities Meeting

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

December 6, 2017

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: IF4 Suprise

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

December 20, 2017

Garage Sale

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

January 10, 2017 Speaker Mtg

January 24, 2017 Activity Mtg



MFFC

Continued from Page 1

shades. "Or streamers sized 6-2, in fall I tend towards orange and natural colors."

"I use a 7 or 8 wt. (streamer) rod for large Brown Trout." She suggested a 5-8 wt. rod with tip flex or stiffer, no more than four feet of leader, and straight tippet. "Too much tippet and my rod won't let my line cast properly," said Ferner. "Shorten it up (the tippet). You'll get better presentation."

Ferner suggests a Non-slip Mono Loop because it gives better motion in the water. "In cooler water, use slower strips, or big loooong strips."

"Your rod tip is down towards your fly....strip, strip...feel that fish...and then you raise the rod."

"Bring it in as fast as possible," said Ferner. "You felt the fish, now bring it in, don't fight it. They build up lactic acid just like us. We can go sit down. They can't. They have to constantly move to get water into their gills." If you fight them hard and long, "...they will round the bend and go belly up."

Next, Flies. "The black articulated Bunny Leach is one of my go to flies," said Ferner. She also suggests the Slumpbuster "That's pine squirrel," she said pointing to the collar of the fly. "That's a fantastic fly." She also suggested the 3 1/2 inch long Hawkins' Nutcracker - "a very productive fly," said Ferner. "I prefer to use a sink tip on that fly. That will make the fly kind of undulate." Also, use a Red Rocket by Mike Schmidt. "He was down in Ohio, but moved to Florida. He's at the show. If you are at the show, go meet him. He's a giant red-haired man."

But..."When in doubt, put on a Wolly Bugger," said Ferner. "Don't be afraid to use crayfish flies either. Plus, any Bouface is a trout killing fly." She showed a

Brown, a Gold Bead Bouface hooked to it's lip. "Classic," she said.

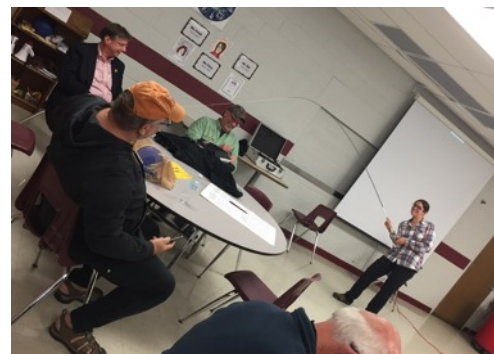
There is also the D&D (Drunk & Disorderly), "The D&D is sometimes a difficult fly to fish...when you are stripping it in, use small 3 inch strips." Remember, when a fly is stripped it flattens out, and when it stops it flowers back out. Other streamer flies Ferner suggested were the Grumpy Muppet, Hawkins' Hat Trick and Schmidt's Junk Yard Dog.

Ferner loves her Browns, streamers and indicator fishing. It gives "proper presentation as a whole," she said. "Don't be afraid to do an indicator rig all year round...although it can be a little technical to make the float float properly." Ferner said after the tippet ring, leave a three inch tag for weights, then 12-18 inches to the second fly, and 12-18 inches to the third fly. Rig them with egg flies.

"Sometimes the fish want different colors," said Ferner. Switch it up. "When in doubt - chartreuse. Fish can also see blues and purples better at a depth." She paused "When in doubt? Wolly Bugger."

"Don't be afraid to try it," Ferner said of the Indicator Rig. Use a 9 ft. or 10 ft. rod for Indicator Fishing. "I prefer a 10 ft; 11 ft for Steelhead."

The next slide was a Stonefly Nymph Fly next to a Stonefly Nymph. "Don't be afraid to throw Stoneflies. They're out there," said Ferner. "I'd rather eat a steak coming down the river than an M&M..."



throw something meaty!"

"Try to hit as close to the bank, the logs, any structure as you can," said Ferner. "That's where the fish are."

A picture of herself holding a brightly colored Brown Trout displayed. "Guess how big this fish is," she said. Guesses were 24 inches plus. "This is actually a 22 inch fish. "You thought this was a catching fish presentation," said Ferner chuckling, "This is actually a how to hold your fish presentation!" She demonstrated how to hold the fish, elbows tucked in with just the right stance to make any fish look big for the camera.

"This is my largest Rainbow to date," said Ferner. "Guess the size." Silence. "22 inches?" shouted a club member. "23 inches," said Ferner. "I was actually Walleye fishing. It turns out if you Walleye fish improperly, you end up with a Rainbow!" Ferner was in her own boat, her dog in the background. "I took this picture," she said. The fish was caught on an 11 ft. 7 wt. with 250 gr. Sink Tip.

"People don't have any idea how much pressure that rod absorbs," said Ferner. In closing she offered to "catch" Club members so they could appreciate how little pressure a fish feels from a fly rod. Kevin Lipp caught the line, "Hey! You caught a sucker!" Hunter yelled (picture above).



Board Meeting minutes are not posted on line.

You may request a copy from any board member.

Anyone may attend a board meeting and the dates are posted on our web site.

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Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Todd Schotts

Fly of the Month

For this month's fly we are targeting an amazing streamer for those famous dancing fish we call Smallmouths. With this fly, you will dance and then flash or flash and then dance. If you're thinking this is one wild and crazy fly you are correct, but it is very effective. The fly we are talking about is none other than the "Flash Dancer."

This fly is from the master mind, the legend, the TV Host (Hunt for Big Fish), and member of the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame - Larry Dahlberg. Everyone is familiar with the fly named "Dahlberg Diver," which if you have fished any type of predatory fish with the fly rod, you probably casted. But the fly we are looking at, he originally designed back when he was 11 years old while guiding at a Fly Fishing only Smallmouth Camp. This fly, the "Flash Dancer" proved to be more productive than any other fly he used. Then years later he came back to this fly to answer the fly fishers quest for a fly representing the famed spinner bait, the "Mepps Spinner." This fly had all the same features when stripping - movement and flashing. The original fly

pattern had red marabou tail, big glittery wing, and a deer hair head and collar, which aided to drive the fly into life in the water.

When tying this pattern, the original pattern always works great, but don't be scared to experiment with other color combinations. Some ideas to ponder while tying these: add lead wire under the chenille to get the streamer down in the water column; add a silver or pearl wing with a white deer hair collar is useful; Larry did mention Flashabou makes a great wing material - the limper and more mobile the better it is; another option is to use Opalescent Estaz in place of the White Chenille; and I leave the deer hair collar but used ram's wool in place of the deer hair head.

This flashy, dancing miracle, fly can be fished on moving waters or still waters. In rivers, aim for the riffles, drawing across the current in front of the feeding fish. One thing Larry mentioned in his writings was to use a standard wet fly swing, or a cross stream cast with a fast strip. But remember that depends on the flow of the water and the fish. When fishing a lake or bay, a strip retrieve is very essential. Adding lead to the fly can improve the fly's action in still water. As for lines for either water source, use floating, sink tip, intermediate, or full sinking lines. It all depends on what you are trying to achieve on your presentation and the depth you seek. So until next month go dancing and flashing, Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.



HOOK: Mustad 3366 or equivalent sizes 2 & 4

THREAD: 6/0 or 140 Denier

TAIL: Red Marabou

BODY: White Chenille (can also use opalescent Estaz)

WING: Gold Flashabou – about 20 strands

COLLAR: Deer Hair

HEAD: Deer Hair trimmed to Muddler Minnow Shape

OPTIONAL:

- Lead Wire to weight the fly
- Rams Wool instead of Deer Hair for the head
- Opalescent Estaz in place of the White Chenille for the body

Welcome

New Members

Give a big MFFC welcome to new members: Bill Harvey - Commerce Twp.; Andrew McKeon - Canton; Don Zelazny - Rochester Hills; John Mosesso - Saline; Jay Humphries - Farmington; and Jim Frances - South Lyon.

Activities Meeting - November 15, 2017

Special Recognition

Thank You!

Thank you Kathy Oehring for being our new Banquet Chair! If you are willing to help out at the banquet contact her at: oehrk@icloud.com. Thank you Dennis Brukwinski for volunteering as Raffle Co-chair! Keep selling those tickets.

Order Now!

Expo Shirts

Expo shirts orders need to be placed by December. We will be taking orders during the October and November club meetings. Also, Simms hats will be selling for \$15 during those meetings. Contact Eric Center: ecenter4753@yahoo.com.



Meanderings of a

Fly Fishing Savant

Al Haxton

Another Wonderful Trip To Yellowstone

OK, first off I must say it is good to be home. After seven weeks on the road, sleeping in different places for many days and driving lots of miles, it is indeed good to be home on our own trout stream - the wonderful Manistee River.

We headed to the West in early July this year to do some tourist stuff, maybe fish some new spots, discover some new rivers to enjoy and find some trout to hold and love and release. We headed west through South Dakota. We enjoyed some interesting tourist spots. The Badlands were awesome. Mount Rushmore was interesting but seemed smaller than I had expected. We visited the Devils Tower, where the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" was filmed. I got to see folks climbing that awesome rock formation and must say I am glad I did not have to do that. We stayed in some wonderful homey hotels and had some awesome, and some awful, meals during our trip. All in all, it was truly great and we enjoyed everything we saw.

We discovered some interesting facts. Run-off on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains is later than on the western side. We tried to fish some of the wonderful streams on the eastern side but found them still blown out with run-off, with high, muddy waters everywhere we went. We went to the eastern end of the Beartooth Highway near Red Lodge, and just could not really make fishing worth the effort. We stayed in Billings Montana, then found out that to fish there you need to drive about 100 miles or so. We tried, but just could not find a stream that was fishable. The temp there was 103 degrees during our stay. We were glad we were not camping in a tent.

We got to stay at the main lodge for the MFFC trip for a few days before the groups arrived and had some great fishing while we anticipated the arrival of all our friends from The Michigan Fly Fishing Club.

And finally our MFFC groups began. We

had three weeks again this year. I think everyone had a great time. We all caught fish, we explored some new spots and shared some wonderful experiences with great folks. This year we had quite a few first timers. That is always both a challenge and a fun shared time. Some new things on our trip... We now have bear spray for each person on the trip, so some folks feel a bit safer when walking to the great trout streams out there. We also, for the first time, had all the dinners catered. In the past we had all been in groups that had dinner duties. This year we had dinners catered for us...so no cooking was needed. That allowed us all to spend more time fishing, exploring and just enjoying the area. I think everyone liked that new change. Dinners ranged from one night of burgers to a night with some great pasta. We enjoyed steaks, Mexican and some pretty great other meals. As in past years, breakfast items were provided also. There was even a ham each week for sandwiches, if folks wanted that.

I think the fishing was some of the best we have enjoyed. Joyce and I noted we fished for about 40 days straight and had a fish over 16" every day we fished. One day fishing on one of our favorite streams in the Northeast corner of the Park, we caught four fish. The smallest was 16". After Joyce caught the 20" fish we decided to stop. After all, we knew if we pushed our luck the fish would get smaller. So we stopped fishing after about 1 1/2 hours. Four fish - all over 16" long. That was truly the best fishing day of the trip. What a day it was.

I must say one highlight of the trip this year was driving out of the park one day, after going to the Park in the morning darkness to try to photograph wolves, and having one of the most famous wolves in the Park, #926F, walk right out in front of our car. We stopped and took pictures for about 15 minutes while she looked around, walked across the road, and then back...basically allowing us to sit in awe of her beauty and elegance. Now I understand why she

is called "Queen of the Lamars."

I just love my annual visit to the Yellowstone Park area. Every time I visit there I come away with the feeling that I am so very fortunate folks before me made our National Park system and we continue to grow that system. Between our wonderful National Parks and our State Parks, we as fly fishers are so very fortunate to have all the opportunities to visit, fish and enjoy all the natural rivers and streams that are thus protected. I feel strongly that we, as fly fishers and lovers of nature, need to do all we can to protect these parks from those who would destroy them. We need to make our voices heard about this situation, and frequently voice our displeasure with those that would destroy our park system. Our club has donated many dollars each year to conservation efforts both here in Michigan and in other states too. We need to keep those efforts in mind and support our park systems in our own efforts too.

Enough about history. Enough about the trip this year. On to 2018. It will be here soon so it is time to start planning.

For 2018, we again will have Driftwaters Resort reserved for three weeks. Next year we get all six cabins so we will have more openings than in the past. Our adventure will start Saturday July 28 to Saturday August 4; then Saturday August 4 to Saturday August 11; and finally Saturday August 11 to Saturday August 18, 2018. The budget for next year is about \$480 a person per week. Reservations will start at the first Michigan Fly Fishing Club meeting in December. My calendar tells me that is Wednesday December 6, 2017. Joyce and I will both be at that meeting to answer any questions folks may have and to start the reservation process for our 2018 Yellowstone adventures. No deposits are due until March of next year.

So see you all then. Check your calendars, check your schedules and let's make some plans together to fish one of the finest places on earth.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events

Tyer Of The Month

Todd Schotts

By Todd Schotts

For the October Activity meeting we will be rattling and rolling with our Featured/Spotlight Tyer as he brings us his version of a Rattling Gurgler, and if we have time, a surprise second fly maybe tied; the Tyer would be none other than our own Todd Schotts.

Todd is an active club member. He participates in our various outings and also volunteers his services to various club functions. He writes the "Fly Of The Month" for our club Newsletter. Todd has a Production Fly Tying Company, "Grizzly Flies by Schottsie," and supplies his flies to Red Fox Outfitters in Fenton along with the Painted Trout in Dexter. During the winter you can catch him tying at various fly fishing shows across the Midwest and tying at Cabela's in their featured tying Saturdays in Dundee and Grand Rapids.

Two of his different flies appear in two different articles: Eastern Fly Fishing magazine (2015) and this past spring in Fly Fusion Magazine (2017).

The fly Todd will bring us will be one of his favorite bass flies that he enhanced from the classic fly, the Gartside Gurgler. The changes are very pronounced as is the way it moves through the water when stripped. It is tremendous with the flat front on the fly, plus the addition of the rattle adds sound to this fly, and not to forget the pink indicator that makes it easy to see in any light condition.

When fishing this fly, "Give me Lilly Pads or "Give me weed beds." Find holes, open pockets in Lilly Pads...do some small strips and stop, then repeat. Or another way is to do a steady strip, stop and repeat along the edge of Lilly Pads or weed beds. Either way, you will draw attention from the inhabitants of the waters below.

So if you want to tie an effective fly to cast to either those dancing bucketmouths or bronzebacks in lakes or rivers than bring be ready to sling some bobbins at the October activity meeting.

John Pinto

Sand In My Shoe

PART 1

Cat Island in the East Central Bahamas is a unique place, spanning almost sixty miles. It includes a lengthy, deserted beach on the windward side with pink sand flecks that rival the famous beach at Harbour Island. Cat Island is also the hotbed of Obeah religion which is a shirt-tail cousin of the Spanish santaria and the French voodoo. Cat Island's favorite and famous son, actor Sidney Poitier hails from Arthurs Town in northern Cat Island and to this day is rumored to be a high priest in the Obeah religion. Nobody talks about it, but on any given evening you hear the distant drumming from an Obeah gathering as all the live chickens run for cover.

I was bonefishing the northern end of Cat Island near Orange Creek, towards the end of the day when the local commercial fishermen were coming in. I ended up in conversation with them while viewing their catch, deciding what fresh conch, lobster and grouper to buy from them. "Ya Mon. If you like dem bonefishes you need to get out to Little San Sal," said one of the fishermen.

He was referring to Little San Salvador, a small island located between the southern tip of Eleuthera and the northern part of Cat Island. I heard about the lagoon in the middle of little San Sal and how the fishermen from Cat Island would take their boats along the "long rocks," a series of coral outcroppings, into the lagoon. They go there and walk the lagoon for conch telling stories of the huge schools of bonefish they saw. Getting to Little San Sal is an endeavor, as you can only arrive by boat.

As luck would have it, I was staying at Fernandez Bay Village near New Bight. It was getting towards dinner hour; the entire resort staff was busy doing something. The beach bar was filling up with guests, and Mark, the general manager, asked if I would tend bar. I began passing out cold Kalik beers and made the occasional rum drink for the ladies.

To be continued...



HOOK: 3366 Mustad sizes 1/0 thru 6

THREAD: 6/0 or 140 denier color to match body

TAIL: Silicone Skirt Strips

BODY & SHELL: 2mm Closed Cell Craft Foam

RATTLE: Small Glass

UNDERBODY: Saddle Hackle

INDICATOR: Pink 2mm Closed Cell Foam

OPTIONAL: Sally Hansons Hard as Nails on the front lip



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Important Club Stuff

Fred Fields

Eyeglasses

A mother in a small village, in a third world country, has bad eyesight. She can't see well enough to sew her children's few cloths back together. When something wears out she can't go to Target to buy something new. She has to repair it. But she can't see well enough.

She gets eyeglasses. Used ones. They come because optometrists, traveling with a mobile eye exam clinic, give her a pair that were donated by Americans. Maybe ones donated by you, MMFC members.

For over ten years now MFFC members have donated used prescription eye glasses. Yes; this has nothing to do with Fly Fishing. It has to do with bettering the lives of others. A father can get a better job because he can read the instructions for doing a the job. A child gets glasses and can now read in school.

This is your part: Bring used prescription eyeglasses to the next meeting you attend. Please bring them in a bag. If I am not there give them to someone up front. They will be put in storage for me.

We (The Plymouth Lions Club) will take the eyeglasses to where they are sorted by prescription. They then go with a team of optometrists into countries where the majority of the population cannot afford glasses. People get a free eye exam. Based on that exam, they are given a pair of donated glasses. The glasses will be close to, if not right on, to what the person needs.

To date we have given over 1,500 pair of glasses. Think of the impact you have already had on people's lives.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GREAT SUPPORT OF THIS PROJECT.

Speaker Meeting, IF4 - December 6, 2017

New Library Assistant

Kowalkowski

At a recent meeting, Jerry Deputat inquired if anyone would be willing to assist in Library responsibilities in the event that he was unable to attend a meeting. Allen Kowalkowski has answered the call and will be giving Jerry a hand. Feel free to stop by and introduce yourself to Allen ...and check out the myriad of books and DVDs made available to members.

Please remember to keep Joe Sattler and his family in your thoughts and prayers. Joe, in addition to his many club contributions, was responsible for promoting and growing the Library Services over the many years. He will surely be missed.

In Memorium

Joe Sattler



Indeed a tragic loss of a man who exuded life even up to our last conversation. I will miss him. - Bruce Strachan

This is a great loss to our club and our friends. I know I will miss him more than words can say. It was my honor to have known him. - Scott Freburg

Caught

Reading The Hatch



Jeff Rodenberg

Welcome!



Jeff Rodenberg, who has been fly fishing and tying flies for four years now in Michigan, joined the MFFC at the spring Expo. "I grew up in Indiana, Wisconsin and Minnesota," he said, "where I fished for Muskies. I want to learn to fish in Michigan." Jeff drove in all the way from Kalamazoo to attend last month's meeting! Welcome Jeff! We look forward to seeing you again over in these parts soon.