



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

November 2020



Grayling On The Rise

By Sybil Hunter

"Arctic Grayling have long been a favorite species of mine," said Nicole Watson, Ph. D. Student at Michigan State University, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, when she joined the MFFC as the November guest speaker. "I am fascinated by the uniqueness of each fish, their history in North America, and the beauty of their coloration and dorsal fin." Her research focuses on young Arctic Grayling, Brook and Brown Trout, with the overarching goal to clarify the uncertainties of successful Grayling reintroduction into Michigan streams.

Honoring George Lucas, Watson's Fish Wars (guess who is a Star Wars

fan), background information regarding the history of Grayling scrolled over the starry screen. "They were once our dominant stream salmonid in the Lower Peninsula."

What happened to the Grayling? Overfishing. Logging. Competition.

Overfishing. "Imagine catching a fish, throwing it up on the bank, catching another, throwing it up on the bank, catching another until there was a pile five feet tall," said Watson. Grayling were a delicacy shipped in bulk to restaurants in the metropolis regions such as Detroit, Chicago, and NYC.

Logging. "Fish were a good source of protein for loggers," said Watson, "but

Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Calendar

November 18, 2020

Activity Meeting

Topic: Tie Along

Zoom: 7:30 p.m. watch email for link

December 9, 2020

Speaker: Jason Pokone, fly tier

Topic: Upper Manistee trout flies

Zoom: 7:30 p.m. watch email for link

12/9/20 Speaker

12/16/20 Tying Antics

12/23/20 TBD

1/13/21 Speaker

1/20/21 Board

1/27/21 Activity: Tie along

2/10/21 Speaker

2/17/21 Board

2/24/21 Activity: Tie along

3/3/21 Activity TBD

3/10/21 Board

3/13-14/21 Expo @ M

3/17/21 Speaker

4/7/20 Speaker & Elections

4/14/21 Board

4/21/21 Activity TBD

5/5/21 Activity TBD

5/12/21 Board

5/19/21 Banquet @ Italian American Center, 39200 5 Mile Rd, Livonia

6/9/21 Speaker @ VisTaTek, 18600 Haggerty Rd, Livonia

7/14/21 Speaker @ VisTaTek

8/25/21 Speaker @ VisTaTek

Grayling On The Rise

their primary problem was sloughing logs into the water creating degradation of the banks increasing the sub straight, and removal of all log dams." Suspended solids in the water cut the fish's oxygen supply. Sloughing the bottom endangered the eggs.

Competition. Then people transported Brook Trout, native to the upper peninsula, from the Keweenaw Peninsula down state. Brown Trout were brought in from Europe. Rainbow Trout were transplanted as well. The last Grayling in the U.P. died in 1936. The last Grayling in the L.P. was extricated between 1906 and 1908.

Episode I - 1900-1941 Grayling were reintroduced as fry. They disappeared. Episode II 1958-1960 Grayling were reintroduced as fry. They disappeared again. Episode III 1987-1991 Grayling were reintroduced as yearlings. They too disappeared.

A New Hope Episode IV. Why will this time be different? "Research," said Watson, "The level of research is more than before." Plans are to stock eggs as a collaborative effort of the DNR, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, several universities, and many others.

Grayling will be stocked using Remote Site Incubators (RSI). By exposing fish to their home water, "The fish would establish site fidelity," explained Watson, and be more likely to remain local. RSI are cylinders that contain sub-straight, water flow piping, an egg tray, and screen mesh to protect the eggs. Eggs are 2 1/2 mm in size. RSI utilize biosaddles — anything to give a fine bubble aeration for the eggs.

Grayling, a glacial relic species, have a spring incubation period of 17-22 days. Grayling eggs have a small egg sack so Grayling can remain in the substraight for a mere 2 days and must swim up and start feeding immediately to survive. Brookies and Browns have really large egg sacks allowing up to 20-some days developing in the safety of the substraight.

Why haven't trials been successful? 1. Imprinting and water choice. 2. Thyroid T4 Studies, critical to development of any fish, are being done. Increased T4 levels correspond with critical imprinting. 3. Predation. 4. Competition.



One of the first year-class of Arctic grayling that were transferred from an isolated rearing facility at Oden State Fish Hatchery near Petoskey to Marquette State Fish Hatchery.

Behavior studies of different fish is key said Watson, who houses three tanks of artificial streams in her lab. "All my Brook Trout and Brown Trout are from the tributaries of the Pere Marquette." Brook and Browns spawn in the fall and have a size advantage. Her Grayling hatch from eggs from Alaska. Streams are checked every two weeks, there is minimal human contact, fish have a drift feed (nymphs, etc.) and a surface feed (hatches, etc.).

Predation is studied within the artificial streams. Brown Trout are dominant, aggressive and territorial. They engage in turf wars even within the Brown community. Three dominant fish take the primary feeding positions (front, middle, back), all other fish are pushed to the periphery. Grayling are then forced away from the food source. If they move in to feed, they are attacked.

Biogenetic studies of Grayling are being conducted. (How much food/kilo calories are needed to sustain life.) Using all this information, Watson plans to create an individual based model, a fake fish community, to show what should be expected under model established criteria.

Watson reminded everyone to, "Keep the 70 degree pledge. If the water is greater than 70 degrees we will not fish." Fish caught in warmer water die

upon release. "Even people burn more calories in the heat," she said.

Fish must undergo an 18 month health screening process before they are released. Brood stock is divided by year and sex to provide genetic breeding diversity. "A lot of it will boil down to regulations," said Watson. They will be stocked in "very small headwater tributaries" where the water is cooler and provides more refuge.

All of Watson's research is crowd funded. Her biggest financial supporters are Charles Wilson and Iron Fish Distillery in Thompsonville, MI. A portion of the Arctic Grayling Rye, and Arctic Grayling Bourbon fund her Grayling research. Northerners can imbibe in such funding through Iron Fish Distillery, or Kellogg's Bridge Grocery on North Down River Road in Grayling. Southerners can catch the goods through Plum Market, who will order it for them. Another supporter is Salmo Java Roaster's, who's Arctic Grayling coffee raises monies for Watson's research.

For more information about Arctic Grayling or ways to donate to Watson's research, she can be contacted at watsonn8@msu.edu. When not downstate, Watson can be found at her Up North hideout where she enjoys fishing for Brook Trout in the creeks and small rivers of Michigan.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Business

Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board of Directors Meeting October 14, 2020

Roll Call

Present: Strachan; Hunter; Oehring; Niemi; Bada; Mayes; Sejalon; Green; Nowicki

Absent: Fischer

Visitors: Craig Summers; Fred Fields

Approval of Agenda - Approved

Approval of Minutes - Approved

Officer's Reports

President: Strachan

Bond for Treasurer approved by vote.

Liability policy package reviewed by Fred Fields.

Directors & officers policy coverage reviewed by Fred Fields.

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Audit Report: No major discrepancies found. One missing receipt for one expo speaker, judgement call made by treasurer and expo chair based on situation. Two checks still outstanding. Audit approved by board.

Vice President: Hunter

Peter Cesaro Sr. update, is in rehab in Petosky hospital.

Project Pin Drop Update: Milan and Dundee + White Lake areas and mailers left to distribute.

October Edition of The Evening Hatch needs content.

Website is live. Membership link to be fixed. Events requested to be

entered into calendar.

Please submit Board pictures for Board link on website.

Treasurer: Oehring

September 2020 Treasurer's Report approved.

Nowicki suggested a Club financial summary memo to the membership.

Corresponding Secretary: Fischer

Not in attendance but submitted report via VP: 584 contacts in CC db. Email addresses being updated. Expo vendor survey complete - 4 questions, 157 links sent, 58 responses to date. Activity meetings agendas and tying content being generalized.

Membership: Niemi

Current 214 active members. Members have donated to operating expenses.

16 renewals were from members not active last year. 1 new renewal.

Events & Outings

Events & Outings Calendar Publication: updates on events and chairpersons - skeleton schedule of events should be done by President; schedule will be dynamic based on changing COVID-19 situation.

New Business

Club Email Addresses: Webmail server is outdated. 5 accounts share 1 gig cap. Accounts created for continuance of threads to provide continuity between board member transitions. Current host, Secured

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2019 - 2020 Officers

President:
Bruce Strachan
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Vice President:
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Interim Coresponding Secretary:
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**Michigan Fly Fishing Club
Board of Directors Meeting
October 14, 2020**

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Server, might not be able to transfer data to new accounts. S. Hunter will research and address new email server service.

Old Business

Garage Sale: New options for parks near Livonia but sales not allowed on municipal properties.

Expo Update: Website update with date and times. Etix has been updated, will be active January 15, 2021. Communication with MCCC - expo hall currently closed until the first scheduled event by the college is approved. MCCC is reviewing January events with possible restrictions. Several fly fishing shows in January 2021 were canceled. Suburban Showplace is still an emergency field hospital until the end of the year. Might also effect Ultimate Fishing Show in January.

Visitors: Spoke above.

Adjournment: 9:38 p.m.



Amazon Smile

Do you buy stuff from Amazon? If so, why not sign up for Amazon Smile and let it donate cash to the Michigan Fly Fishing Club.

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Here's how to shop with AmazonSmile:

- Visit smile.amazon.com
- Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
- Choose a charitable organization to receive donations, or search for the charity of your choice (yes, the Michigan Fly Fishing Club is there).
- Select your charity
- Start shopping!
- Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. You must be purchasing your items from smile.amazon.com in order for the Club to receive the donations.



In Special Recognition

From Sybil Hunter

A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to Bill Shannon (who also coordinated all Eastside deliveries and the Davisburg run), Steve Isgrigg (who somehow received more than his fair share of non-existent addresses), Jon Bada (who traveled far and wide), Jim Hutton, Linda Kaiser, Dan Finstad, Dan Papiernik (who took the far east side), Bill Bocks, Dennis Brukwinski, Kathleen Hodges (delivered the westside), Kevin Lipp (the first official Pin Drop runner), Mark Hendricks (our Grayling runner), John Eriksson (who did every delivery by bicycle!), Joe Pawyl (who helped sort out southern deliveries), Spencer Vanderhoof, Dave Nowicki, and Jim DiStefanis! Without these people, Project Pin Drop would not have been possible. Thank you for making the 50th pin delivery a success!





Conservation Corner

Peter Albertson's

Conservation Corner



First, let me thank those who have chosen to participate in the Michigan Fly Fishing Club's Conservation Corner (CC) during meetings and via emails. Your time and interest in bringing forth conservation issues is very important to our Club, our fly fishing environment, and our State recreational opportunities. If you have a topic or Action Item for the CC to follow, please bring it to my attention **and be willing to be the topic lead contact** for the CC and be prepared to provide related Action Item follow up news to us.

Application to discharge into **Johnson Creek** is still in progress: Arbor Hills Landfill (Advanced Disposal Services) submitted two National Pollution Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) permit applications to the State of Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for permission to discharge to the Johnson Creek, located in Northville Township, Michigan.

The permit applications in question are MIS210766 and MI00045713. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) in Ingham County Circuit Court, Nessel said. For latest information and topic background go to EGLE: https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3310_70314_80994---,00.html,

For **Line 5 in Michigan Overview**: <https://www.michigan.gov/line5/0,9833,7-413-99504---,00.html>.

MI PFAS latest information, status, maps, etc.: <https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/>

Resources: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE); Sierra Club; Anglers Of The Au Sable; Trout Unlimited; Michigan United Conservation Clubs; The Conservancy Initiative (TCI)- regarding Johnson Creek; Water Shed Councils, I.E.- <https://www.hrwc.org/>; MI Climate Report: https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Climate%20Crisis%20Report.pdf?utm_campaign=website&utm_source=community.citizensclimate.org&utm_medium=email.

Please direct Comments to Peter Albertson at: palbertsontsp@icloud.com



Fly Fishing Reports *Members of the Fly*



I have been busy traveling up in Northern Ontario trying to avoid people as much as I can. I did some fishing for pink salmon on the St. Mary's River in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario in September. We had intended to go for kings but we were four weeks too early. I would have liked to fish for salmon on the Manistee this year but COVID killed *that* idea. This COVID has been terrible for travel. I planned to spend the winter in Florida but we had to cancel.

We managed only one picture at the end of our trip. In the photo, we're each holding a pink salmon, plus there were seven more in the net. The pinks were rather small, three to four pounds on the average. The trip from Windsor to Sault Ste. Marie normally takes about 4.5 hours though Michigan but when staying in Ontario it took us 11.5 hours. Uggh!

Helmuth Pletz, Windsor, Ontario

One Scary Salmon

Bob Niemi proudly shows off his Atlantic salmon that he caught on Oct. 31 – yep, on Halloween – on the lower Au Sable River. Pretty scary.



My First Pere Marquette Chromer

By Todd A. Schotts

This is another one of those stories that takes place back when I was a youngster not knowing much about the outdoors. We have to go back to around 1974 for this unique tale to take place.

Every year in the spring and fall, my dad would load up the trusty pick with the camper and head out to the town of Baldwin with my mom, two kids, and two dogs to fish camp on the banks of the famed Pere Marquette River by Bowman Bridge for the weekend. This type of fishing did not contain any type of flies, or fly rods, but instead, the tribulations of spinning rods and spawn bags were very plentiful at this fish camp. Can you remember those rustic pull-off campsites back then? That was us. It was very rustic, no electric, two lovely outhouses, and a hand pump for water. It looked more like a parking lot than a campground, but we had fun. As for where these campsites were located? I am not quite sure, but I have to believe they were close to where the boat ramp is currently located by the bridge.

Every weekend we were up there, the elder guys would take off early in the morning to go pursue the famed Pere Marquette chromers. They would return mid-day, eat, take a siesta and then head back out. I really cannot remember how many fish they actually caught, but I do know we ate a lot of Steelhead and Salmon during the winter, and I can still remember those tasty salmon patties that my mom always made.

On this particular day as they headed out, after my morning ritual (eat, get firewood, get water if needed, from the old time hand pump), I headed down by the river to play with toy soldiers. I had one of most elite fighting forces on the shores of the Pere Marquette River (General MacArthur or General Chesty Puller would have been proud). After a morning of securing the beachhead with these elite greens, the weary fishers were coming in from their fishless morning. With just a few fishing tales, we ate lunch, and it was time for their daily siestas. I decided I wanted to fish, so I got out my mighty Zebco Rod & Reel to see if I could be the big fisherman today. One of the older guys helped me rig a spawn bag on my mighty Zebco. As he walked away, he said good luck, and started laughing.

So as I played with my Toy Soldiers, storming the beachhead with my mighty fighting forces of tanks and jeeps, the line on my little, but mighty, Zebco starting to sing as it came off the reel with my line heading up the river at full speed. I jumped up and took control (or thought I did) and held on tight. All of sudden – no doubt from the tension of the line – a huge steelhead leaped from the mystic waters and came down with a huge splash. With this huge splash, everyone came out of the campers, running toward my secured beachhead, as I held on for life. With the loud splash from this Pere Marquette prize, everyone thought I fell into the cool waters, but once they saw I had a fish on, they started to scream instructions on what to do and what not to do. Then with



Fishing for steelhead on the flies-only section of the Pere Marquette River near Baldwin.

no warning the Steelie decided to take another leap, but this splash wasn't as spectacular as the first one. And with that, my dad decided without warning, to take over at the controls of this fish. So now, they had my fish pole, my fish, and they were trying to subdue this creature (all the while stepping on my elite soldiers, tanks, and trucks in the process). As they attempted to land this wonderful fish, what seemed like eternity finally came to an end as quick as it started with my line going completely limp. That only meant one thing and with the look on my dad's face as he held my fish pole, he informed me that the fish broke off and got away. The only thing I remember next was the word "SH*T!!" came out of my mouth. As I blurted that out, all of the grownups turned around to look in dismay, shock and horror at me. With my mother being thoroughly shocked, and probably embarrassed, she grabbed my arm and we were off to visit Mr. Lava,
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A Rodeo for Trout Unlimited

By Lou Rogala

At the end of last year, my grandson, Willie aka Chef Willis, asked me to be his partner in the 8 River Rodeo in Colorado. I was beyond excited. In January, we received the sign-up email and of course we signed up! Each of the team members must individually, catch and release a fish in each of the eight rivers. Sounds easy doesn't it? To the contrary as it was a brutal challenge.

Two of Willie's friends, Frank and Evan also joined as a team. We all waited on the edge of our seats through the quarantine hoping the rodeo would still be happening. As we approached the date and the rodeo was a go, I became very anxious about the flight. Would the plane be crowded, would everyone be wearing a mask, would I be safe at the airport and on the plane? Would the light rail that I take to downtown Denver be crowded and would everyone on the rail be wearing a mask? My daughters relieved the anxiety about the light rail by insisting they pick me up at the airport.

The day arrived for my flight to Denver and I found all my anxiety was for naught. The airport was not crowded and there was no line for security. The airlines left the middle seats open unless there was a party of three. The flight on the way to Denver was half-full and the flight home was less than half-full.

Willie picked me up early on the morning of the check in for the rodeo. His truck was packed with fishing and camping gear, but he still was able to fit my fishing gear and clothes. We stopped at the grocery store for provisions for our two



Camping in the Rockies and catching trout in the Colorado's famed rivers

nights of camping. The first night we stayed at a campground built into the side of a hill in Glenwood Springs. There had been an unusual amount of rain for July, so the flora reminded me of the northwestern U.S. instead of the normal brown. The second night we camped on my grandson's friend of a friend's 60-plus acres.

Willie and his two friends did all the work setting up and taking down camp. Willie borrowed a twin aero bed for me to sleep on and bought a portable potty in case I needed it. He is so thoughtful.

Friday morning after a hearty breakfast burrito cooked by Chef Willis, we headed off to fish the Frying Pan, Roaring Fork, Colorado, and Crystal Rivers on the schedule for that day. The first river we fished was the Frying Pan. We had no luck with the recommended Mysis shrimp but we each caught a fish on zebra nymphs. Then it was on to the Roaring Fork and boy does it roar! We had no luck there, but I did see a huge fish jump totally out of the water. That image is still engrained in my mind. We did not make it to the Colorado or Crystal Rivers that day. Pork loin, summer squash, onions, and red potatoes ala Chef Willis for dinner. It was raining so Willie put a tarp up reaching from his truck to the trees, so we had a dry place to sit.

On day two we began our fishing on the Slate River. The scenery was beautiful everywhere we looked. Willie and I both caught a brookie. I knew the brook-

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A Colorado trout for Trout Unlimited

Here's to Bob Gore *And all he gave us*

By Jim DuFresne

I was standing on the edge of a stream in Antrim County last week, casting for whatever might be in there, when I realized that what was falling on my jacket was the first snow of the season. It was white, wet and cold. But I was dry and warm and I immediately thought of Bob Gore.

Robert W. Gore died in September in Delaware at the age of 83, and every one of us who adventure outdoors should pause and reflect on how much he has contributed to our love of fly fishing, hiking, skiing, birding, trail running, or however you play outside.

Gore was the creator of Gore-Tex technology. No other innovation has had such a profound effect on those of us who wander into the woods and stay there – comfortably and dry thanks to Gore-Tex – whether it's for the afternoon or days at a time.

It's used in your rain gear, sure, but maybe also in your hiking boots, gloves, sleeping bag, tent, waders, running shoes, bike shorts, windbreaker, gaiters, the cap on the top of your head, the drysuit you wear sea kayaking ... I could go on, but you get the point. Gore-Tex is laminated into almost everything.

"Gore-Tex practically built the outdoor business, as we know it today," Columbia Sportswear's CEO Tim Boyle told Yahoo News. "Can you name any other outdoor component that defined an episode of 'Seinfeld'?"

Gore's breakthrough occurred in 1969 when he discovered a new form of polymer, a substance made of large molecules that repeat to form long chains. Late one night in the company lab, he was trying to develop a better pipe-thread tape for plumbers when he suddenly yanked a new form of a polymer called PTFE and it unexpectedly caused the compound to expand by nearly 1,000 percent. In short, he had turned a solid material into a microporous structure that was mostly air.

The age of "waterproof yet breathable" was born.

Gore then oversaw the creation and development of Gore-Tex, a laminate featuring 9 million pores per square inch. The pores were designed to be too minuscule to allow water droplets to penetrate, i.e., rain and mist, but were large enough to allow water vapor to pass through; the sweat and heat you produce from casting, wading hiking or paddling.

By the late 1970s, the new membrane began appearing in various outdoor apparel, laminated onto two or three layers of fabrics, and in 1978, famed mountaineer Jim Whittaker used Gore-Tex outerwear to lead the first American team

to ascend K2. The outdoor world took notice.

But it was anglers, weekend campers, day hikers and green diamond snowboarders that turned W.L. Gore & Associates, the company Gore's father founded in 1958, into a \$1.3 billion enterprise with 5,000 employees. Gore-Tex became a staple when apparel companies like Adidas, Columbia, North Face and Patagonia began utilizing it to make outdoor clothing lighter, warmer and more comfortable even in the middle of a drenching downpour.

Most outdoor enthusiasts I know have never known life without Gore-Tex. I do, a time when foul weather was a miserable ordeal.

I was living in Southeast Alaska in the late 1970s, a temperate rainforest where in October it rains every day. We survived by wearing raincoats coated with a PVC rubber that was designed for commercial fishermen. We added a heavy wool sweater underneath because not a drop of perspiration

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Jim DuFresne



A pair of anglers are warm and dry after a day on the Au Sable, thanks to Gore-Tex jackets and waders.



Fly of the Month

By Todd A. Schotts

November's Fly of the Month

George Cook's Popsicle Fly

It is Chromer Time - the fish of a 1000 casts (aka Steelhead)!!!! So all you die-hards that endure the coldness, the snow, and the northern winter winds to chase these silver beauties, hopefully this month's fly will reduce that 1000 cast label and aid in more frequent tight lines. I started tying this fly a few years back for a friend up in Alaska, and they end up looking more like a masterpiece of art than an actual working fly. With that, this month's fly pattern is "Cook's Popsicle Fly."

This pattern was designed by George Cook back in the 1980's, when he got his start in the fly fishing industry working at Kaufman's Fly Shop in Washington; he also guided in Western Alaska around the same time frame. Cook taught fly fishing class at Washington State University (1980-1984) with Dave Engerbretson. After leaving the University, he started working at Sage as Director of Schools and Sporting Shows, then eventually became a Sage Product Representative for Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

For the main feature of his "Popsicle Fly," as mentioned above, this fly was designed back in the 1980's for the Bristol Bay region of Alaska. This fly belongs to a group of patterns he created and called the "Alaskabou Series." These flies are brightly colored. According to Cook, these flies are attacked by Pacific Salmon and Steelhead because of the irritation and anguish they cause the fish. (Salmon and steelhead do not feed during their upstream runs.) Along with the famed "Popsicle Fly," there are two more famous flies out of this group, the "Volcano" and "Blue Moon" flies.

George mentioned, "That beyond the purpose that these flies were conceived for, that this tying style can be adapted for other species and waters by using different color combinations."

This fly is classified as being a very easy pattern to tie. The main thing you do need, is some really great marabou in different colors. The marabou has great movement underwater, resembling a living organism, but remember they attack this fly because of the irritation being caused to the fish. If you look in a lot of books or videos, they show tying these on classic salmon hooks, but nothing is further from the truth. Tie these on short shank hooks with a big hook gap (to prevent materials getting stuck in the hook curve).

When tying this pattern, once you have the hook in the vise and thread started, wrap the Mylar Tinsel on the hook shank from the front toward the hook point/barb and tie off there. Then take an orange marabou plume and tie it in by its tip, just above the hook point/barb area. Then wrap the marabou around the hook, tie off, clipping excess off. Take some flash (I prefer Opal Lateral Line) 2 strand's on each side of the orange marabou plume.

The next step take a red marabou plume and follow the same procedure as with the orange marabou plume, but tie it right in front of the flash & yellow marabou. The final step is to tie in the purple marabou plume following the same procedures as with the orange and red marabou plumes, but tie it in right where the red ended. Once you are done, your thread should be right behind the hook eye. The final procedure is to make sure everything stays together, do a few half hitches, then head cement the thread wraps. One thing I have done a little different, I have used UV Thin Resin to coat the thread wraps and just a little bit of the purple marabou down by the thread wraps. The only reason I do this is that it helps push more water, along with adding

Popsicle Fly Recipe



HOOK: TMC 7999 or any short shank wide gap hook, Sizes 6, 4, & 2

THREAD: Red 70 Denier or 8/0

BODY: Mylar Tinsel, Medium

HACKLE: Marabou Plumes (Fluorescent Orange, Red, and Purple)

FLASH: 2 Strands of Opal Pearl Flash (I like to use Opal Lateral Line)

more marabou movement, when stripping the fly back in the current.

So if you want to have some fun "Chasing the Steel" in our rivers here in Michigan, get those bobbins sling-ing and tie yourself up some "Popsicle Flies." Until next month, be safe, tight lines, and keep those flies snazzy.



A Tie Along

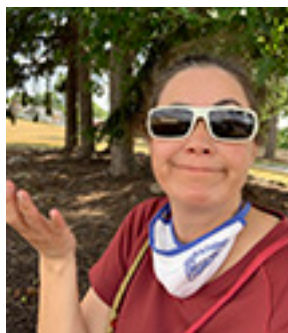
With Sybil Hunter & Al The Hackleman Haxton

Sailors Drake Fly Recipe



Hook: Dry fly hook size 12-16
Thread: Black
Tail: Pheasant tail fibers, 3-4 fibers
Body: Deer hair
Wing: Deer hair

On Wednesday, Nov. 18, via Zoom of course, Al Haxton (professional fly tier) will try his best to get Sybil, (general hack and Evening Hatch editor) to demonstrate the Sailors Drake and the North Branch Special.



Sybil Hunter

Both of these patterns are ORIGINAL Michigan patterns and developed in the Grayling area. Both catch fish all over the country and are great patterns for new fishers as they float like a cork. Sailors Drake is probably the first “emerger” pattern, or maybe a stillborn mayfly pattern, as it lays on its side on top of the water.

Both patterns can be tied larger and smaller than noted. Both can use dyed deer hair to make them like Sulfur Mayflies or BWOs, if desired. In larger sizes they can be Brown Drakes or even Hex patterns.

Bring your supplies and your vices (whatever they may be) to join us.

North Branch Special Recipe



Hook: Dry fly size 12-16
Thread: Black
Body: Deer hair
Wing: Deer hair
Hackle: Grizzly

Here's to Bob Gore *Continued from page 9*

ever escaped those raincoats, so the wool was needed to keep us warm even when we were wet.

Before Gore-Tex, it was wet wool. But no more.

After consumers besieged Gore with letters asking for more fashionable performance wear made with Gore-Tex, his company launched its “From the Mountain to Manhattan” campaign in 2001.

Today you can stand on any city street corner, especially in Manhattan, and see pedestrians scurrying along in apparel and active-wear that has been integrated with Gore-Tex. While designers like Bill Blass and Cathy Hardwick were early adopters of adding performance fabrics to sportswear, Gore-Tex is now being used by fashion houses throughout the city's Garment District, including Prada.

But we were the first. All of us who have hunkered down on the banks of the Au Sable, waiting out an afternoon shower, is what inspired Bob Gore to dedicate his career to keeping us dry. And it's only right that we pause and thank him for making life in the river so pleasant we can't wait to return. Whether it's raining or not.

Rest in peace, my friend.



Bob Gore, the inventor of Gore-Tex.

Pere Marquette Chromer

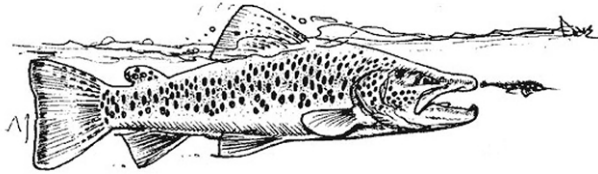
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the gritty bar of soap.

Boy, what a day. My elite army was storming the beach on the Pere Marquette with success; I hooked into a huge Steelhead; I got my fish pole taken away from me; I watched my dad lose my fish; and then I ended up with Lava Soap in my mouth - not at all what I had in mind for an mid-afternoon snack! Oh, and in the process of all the grownups trying to land this chromer, I lost two platoons of my Elite Army, one Tank, and two Jeeps!

With all the tragedy of loosing a nice chromer, the huge loses of my Elite Army, there was one shining moment....I was the only one that whole day that hooked into a Pere Marquette steelhead, and the best part was, that I wasn't even trying.

Until next time Tight Lines.



A Rodeo for Trout Unlimited

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ie was there because I saw him jump. I was determined to catch the little guy. My persistence paid off. I landed the brookie and placed him in the measuring tool. So beautiful!

Then it was on to the Gunnison. It was a difficult trek down to the river and Willie's friend, Frank, helped me down. Willie caught a big brown here on a caddis. It was evident there had been a huge Stonefly hatch, we had just missed it.

Then it was just Willie and I on to Spring Creek. Willie had fished there before so he already knew the right spot. Just as we got through the path to the creek, it started to rain but we carried on. After a while, we heard thunder and then saw lightning. We quickly got out of the creek and headed to town for dinner and a good night sleep.

We knew from the beginning that we would not win but we knew that the rodeo would make us better anglers and give us the opportunity to fish Colorado's most beautiful and best rivers. However, much to our surprise, we placed 24th out of the 32 teams with only fishing six of the eight rivers. All proceeds went to Colorado Trout Unlimited and Project Healing Waters. For information see www.8riverrodeo.com/.



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