



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

October 2020

The Three Things Most Relevant In MI Fisheries Now

By Sybil Hunter

October welcomed Sara Thomas, a Lake Erie Unit Manager for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division (MDNR). In her role, she supervises an office of seven full time, and a miscellany of seasonal, employees that help manage the SE Michigan fisheries. Prior to this position, she was a Fisheries Research Biologist with the Illinois Natural History Survey at the Lake Michigan Biological Station for 14 years. Her focus was on nearshore habitat and fish communities, food web dynamics, and the interactions between native and invasive species.

Her October speaking points were Covid 19 impacts on the fisheries, local and habitat projects, and the ever dreaded invasive species.

Covid 19 Impacts. There was no Walleye, Steelhead or Muskie egg take, so there will be no stocking for 2021. Southeast Michigan consolidated areas will have limited stocking. Southeast Michigan adult Trout will not be stocked. Few lake surveys were completed before shut-down. Great Lakes research work

did not begin until mid-June. The State is now under a hiring freeze, with restricted spending. Some limited sampling was done, with face masks. An upshot was that Michigan license sales are up about 12% this year!

Local and Habitat Projects include: The Henry Ford Estate Fishway (affording the fish a way to safely traverse the dam); Monroe dams (River Raisin fish ladders were built); Carpenter Rudd Mill Dam - Stoney Creek area (removal of graffiti and broken rock); Great Lakes Nearshore Initiative (restoration); Stony & Celeron Islands - Detroit River (rock barriers with boating gaps); Cottrellville Shoreline - lower thumb area (removed dock); plus spawning reefs in St. Clair and Detroit Rivers (2008, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016). "Whitefish are spawning there for the first time in a decade," said Thomas. Add to this, stream restoration including: Clinton River (removed a log jam); St. Clair River (perched culverts removed that created dams, often at road crossings); Rouge River - Johnson Creek area (adjusting a seawall to a sloped flood plane) and wetland restoration including: Clinton River mouth (downed trees to create a break wall for marsh wetland area).

Invasive Species. Grass Carp. 1:4 Asian Carp are Grass Carp. They can eat up to 90 pounds of grass a day. They
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MFFC Calendar



November 4, 2020

Speaker: Nicole Watson - tentative
Topic: Arctic Grayling Initiative
Zoom 7:30 p.m. -Watch email for link

November 11, 2020

Board Meeting
Zoom 7:30 p.m.

November 18, 2020

Activity Meeting
Activity: Tie Along
Zoom 7:30 p.m. -Watch email for link

December 9, 2020

Speaker: Tentatively Chuck Hawkins
Topic: TBD
Zoom 7:30 p.m. -Watch email for link

December 23, 2020

Activity Meeting
Activity: TBD
Zoom 7:30 p.m. -Watch email for link



Continued from page 1

cannot digest it, so they expel fish poop that contributes to algae blooms. They are voracious eaters. It is illegal to possess them. They can occur as diploids (fertile) or triploids (infertile). Diploids and triploids can be differentiated by the formation of their eyes. Triploids are allowed in some states for the use of vegetation control. Grass Carp showed up in Lake Erie in 2014 and 2016. Telemetry receivers are used to track the approximately 50 tagged Grass Carp. They are found in Lake Erie, Maumee River, and the Sandusky River. Peak flows encourage Grass Carp to spawn. In 2019, Grass Carp went as far as the Cuyahoga River, most of which were triploids there. Other locations, according to Thomas, see a mix. There is an effort to stop the invasion in order to protect the Steelhead in Steelhead Alley. "The priority seems to be the Sandusky River," said Thomas. This year 31 were captured, 21 removed, and 10 tagged. 28 were from Sandusky, 3 from Maumee. Thomas said telemetry and egg sampling help track the fish. Tagged fish swim past the receivers and provide realtime data by email. The work started in late June, Maumee allowed work in September.

Thomas then mentioned Plum Creek Flathead Catfish. They are huge according to the slide pictures.

Red Swamp Crayfish were the next order of invasive species. According to Thomas, they have invaded every continent except Antarctica. They outcompete the native species. Their burrows are creating erosion and infrastructure failure. They reproduce in large numbers. In 2015, they became a prohibited species. The last DNR report to the MFFC was in 2017, when these creatures showed up in Sunset Lake in Vicksburg and in a Novi retention pond.

Social media has been a great tool to track the invasive crayfish. From 2017 to 2018, 20 infestations were documented. Thomas shared a slide showing the growth of these creatures from 5,718 trapped in 86 different sites in 2017 to the 36,534 trapped from 39 of the largest infested sites in 2019. The Covid 19 restrictions impacted this removal program as well, however 35,444 were trapped in 27 different sites since just June. "In that tiny little part where they didn't allow us to trap, they really went gangbusters," said Thomas. Since 2017, about 94,000 of Red Swamp Crayfish were removed from Michigan's land.

According to Thomas, the MDNR tried to remove the crayfish using different processes including carbon dioxide treatment, sound disturbances, trapping, and chemical trials, none of which worked overwhelmingly well. "We have seen that raccoons really like to eat them," said Thomas. Thomas shared a slide showing how to differentiate the good crayfish from the bad. The primary differences are that Red Swamp Crayfish have bumps and the two plates on their back are touching.

Fielding questions, Thomas said, "The Louisiana Seafood Boil...these are the same food...but I would not eat anything that was living in a retention pond." She also mentioned the MDNR is starting outreach to the boating community to help catch, kill, and remove invasive species. In closing she noted, "Last week, The State budget did pass...we were pretty surprised...and we actually didn't have any cuts. All summer we were told to prepare for the worst." Sara Thomas can be reached with further questions at thomass35@michigan.gov.

Around Michigan

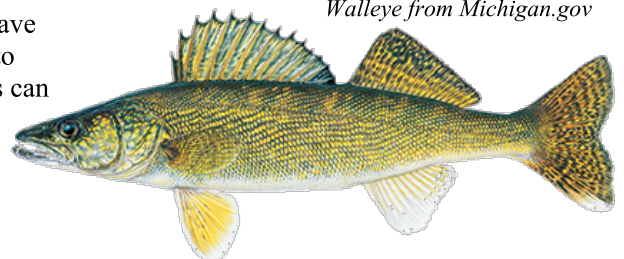
Members On The Fly



Don Oehring, caught 10/8/20, 28 pounds



Walleye from Michigan.gov





MFFFC Business

Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Board Meeting September 16, 2020

Rollcall

Present: Strachan, Hunter, Oehring, Niemi, Bada, Mayes, Green, Nowicki
Absent: Fischer, Sejalon
Guests: Mike Matuszewski, Peter Albertson

Approval of Minutes - Approved May, June, July Board Minutes
Approval of Agenda - Approved

Officer's Reports

President - Strachan

Publication of 2020/2021 Meeting Schedule done. Desire for Zoom meeting attendance to increase.

Vice President - Hunter

*Project Pin Drop. Recently completed: Ann Arbor, Brighton, Ypsilanti going out next week. Approximately 40 pins to be mailed to members, when recipients confirm addresses.

*Garage Sale. Matuszewski suggested Trunk or Treat style garage sale in VFW parking lot. Bada requested everyone bring their own light source and suggested the event start at 6:30 p.m. to ensure adequate lighting. Mayes to contact VFW Hall to use lot and lavatories until 8:30 p.m. The Evening Hatch anticipated next week.

Treasurer - Oehring

*Minor expenses for Club picnic/ minor revenues from Amazon Smile donation program

*B. Shannon/ S. Hunter/ S. Isgrigg reviewing and audit comments, nearly complete

*Treasurer's report accepted as submitted.

Corresponding Secretary - Fischer

Speaker Schedule. Oct 9: Sara Thomas from DNR (Zoom); Nov & Dec not confirmed at this time.

Membership - Niemi

*Current: 384 active paid members

*Renewal Letters. 574 renewal letters sent out (based on last three year's membership listing. Added a "Club Operating Expenses" category as another source for donation.

*Pay Pal. Set up onto Club website is almost done. Two test donations successfully completed.

*Zoom meetings mentioned on membership letters.

Events & Outings

2020-2021 Club Events: Strachan will be handling.

Arkansas Trip: Last week in Feb. 22-26. Self-funded trip for Club members only. Cost \$1200 for lodging/food/guide service. Constant Contact and Hatch hosting to be sent.

Future BOD Meetings: Will be Zoom format. Next Board meeting is Oct. 14. If visitors want to join the Board meeting, they should contact Green prior to meeting so they can be given the contact and "host" can watch to add them.

New Business

MFFC.org: Microsoft Developer: Haley Vingeness working on website. New format. To be up next week. Donations and dues buttons will be added to the website. Membership fee online is \$36 to cover the transaction fee charged to the Club. Niemi gave historical perspective on Pay Pal, not as simple as anticipated. Strachan would like buttons on the main homepage.

VFW Hall Club Meetings: State of Michigan Covid 19 Pandemic Restrictions: no indoor gatherings to exceed 10 people, with social distancing guidelines and mask enforcement. Phase 5 Compliancy. Clarneceville School District closed; once reopened, Strachan will revisit options. Suggested:

1. Zoom meetings for speakers and BOD meetings.
2. VFW hall for activities meetings. No provisions for overhead or projections screen. Is blank wall. Contract with VFW Hall not established.

Old Business

Meeting Minutes. Bada to add corrections by Friday.

2020 MFFC Expo. Strong energy to continue on conversations with MCCC. Negotiations and restructuring of layout/cost are being investigated. Presented drop dead dates on making the call for the 2021 Expo.

Visitor Comments: none

Adjournment: 8:40 p.m.

Choose AmazonSmile to Accrue Donations To The MFFC

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**, **AmazonSmile** Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Visit smile.amazon.com Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials Choose MFFC



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October Fly Of The Month

Frank Sawyer's

Killer Bug

By Todd Schotts

With this month's fly pattern, I decided to go back in time for a fly pattern that is just as deadly now as it was in the past. I use this fly pattern when Euro Style fishing, by itself or as a tandem rig. It is the "Killer Bug" by Frank Sawyer.

The river report on Frank Sawyer is really totally amazing. Born in 1909, he was an English river keeper, writer, fly designer, and inventor. One of his most famous fly patterns is the Pheasant Tail Nymph. His other famous flies include Gray Goose Nymph, The Sawyer Swedish Nymph, and the Bow Tie Buzzer, just to name a few. He is probably best remembered for developing the "Sunken Nymph" and the associated nymphing technique called the Netheravon Style. Uniquely, this pattern was originally tied with fine copper wire instead of silk thread like everyone else was using. Sawyer said this allowed the nymphs to sink and gave them translucent coloring under water. Another thing for which he is credited is the "sink & draw" method of nymphing. That is where the nymph is allowed to sink and then made to swim towards the surface by drawing the line or slowly lifting the rod tip. This was coupled with "the induced take" where the nymph was made to swim up in front of a fish, which induced your chances of the fish taking your offering. Besides his great fly patterns and techniques, Sawyer wrote articles and books, including Keeper of the Stream (1952) and Nymphs and the Trout (1958).

This month's fly, was created along



the banks of the River Avon, some writings say around 1930 and others, after World War II. Whichever the date, this fly stands the test of time and is still very effective. Sawyer mentioned the secret to the Killer Bug's success is the color the yarn turns when wet. His writings said what looks like a bland tan when dry in the fly box, turns a translucent tannish-pink in the water. It is said this fly actually looks like a hunk of raw flesh, which probably why it makes the fly so desirable to the fish. Sawyer meant the Killer Bug to imitate the little freshwater shrimp that occupied the River Avon, but Frank's grandson mentioned that it was also thought this bug resembled a caddis pupa on its way to the surface.

The fly is simple to tie. The original version that Frank loved so much, was tied with Chadwick's 477 yarn — which, per Frank, was the major secret to this flies success under water. The original yarn (Chadwick's 477) was used to reinforce and mend wool. Unfortunately this magical yarn is no longer available. It is rumored the recipe was lost in a fire, but no one really knows. Cards of 477 appear on eBay going for very, extremely high dollar value. I found SemperFli has made a substitute, sold in various fly shops, which is very cost savvy for us tyers. Yes, it works just as good as the original, from the comments/reports I researched, and

Killer Bug



HOOK: Daiichi 1560, Mustad 3960B, or TMC 3761 (Nymph 1x Long, 1x Strong) Sizes 12 to 18 (common size used size 16)

WIRE: UTC Ultra Wire Small Copper

BODY: SemperFli Chadwick's 477 Sub or a pinkish grey darning wool

from my own personal experience. Sawyer didn't use tying thread, only copper wire.

So to start out, use Small UTC Ultra Copper Wire. It is best if you actually thread it through a bobbin to tie this fly. Start at the eye of the hook, take wraps back then go back to about half way. Next, back up to the front and back to the half way point. This is where the yarn, for the body, is added. With the amount cut off, double it up and tie it in. Take the bobbin with the wire and wrap back to the bend of hook, back up to the yarn, tie the yarn down, then wrap back to the bend again. Make sure all you see on the body is just wire. Brush Super Glue over the wire body to help hold it together, keep the yarn from coming undone. Then take the yarn wrap up to the front, wrap it back to the bend of the hook. Take your bobbin with the wire and tie down the yarn, while making a tag at the bend with the wire. At this point whip finish with the wire being careful not to break it. You can either break
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Guest Tyer Of The Month

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the wire or trim it. One thing I actually do that they don't do with the original, is to take some UV glue and coat the tag end of wire at the back, just to make sure it doesn't come undone (or Super Glue it). This is the original tying process described in Sawyer's writings. As with most historically famous flies, there are many cousins and descendants. Use this on a jig, scud, or regular hooks with beads, I have also tied it with hot spots. However you tie this pattern, you will have tight lines. But for the fun of it, just try to tie this in the original format with wire as thread, it truly is a ton of fun.

When fishing this pattern, it is said to be best fished with an "Induced Take." Start with a sight cast, let the fly drift toward the fish, and as the fly nears the target raise your rod making the fly rise up in the water. This action helps make the fly very enticing to the desired target. For the gear, a 3wt. or 4wt. fly rod works great. I usually use a 4wt., 11 foot (Euro Nymphing) rod, or if in tight areas, then regular 4wt. fly rod. For a fly line, a floating line works great on regular fly rods, and a Czech nymphing line works great with a Czech Nymph system. Either way, it is a great pattern for many tight lines.

So if you want to arm yourself with an arsenal of a historical fly, that is just as enticing as today as it was back after World War II....get your bobbins slinging!!! So until next month, tight lines, be safe out there in this crazy world, snazzy flies, and stay away from Rona she will ruin your fishing and tying schedules.



Chris Hunter

Spruce Moth Prince Nymph

MFFC Tied One On With Chris Hunter



Back by popular demand, Chris Hunter was our featured tyer at the last online meeting. Also by popular demand Chris WILL NOT be tying a Purple Haze. (Chris was very bummed out by this, but will eventually get over it....) With the fall season upon us, Chris selected two "go to" patterns, Bob Jacklin's Spruce Moth and the traditional Prince Nymph from the Universal Fly Tying Guide, Dick Stewart, arr. by Chris Hunter.



Spruce Moth



HOOK: Size 10 or 12 dry fly

THREAD: White or Yellow

BODY/WING: Blond Elk Hair

HACKLE: Dun, Cream or White

DUBBING: Light Brown

Optional Tools:

Bourbon

Whip finish tool

Prince Nymph



BEAD: for size 12 hook (gold or silver)

HOOK: Size 12 1x

THREAD: Black

TAIL: 2 black goose biots

RIB: Oval gold tinsel

BOOK: peacock herl

HACKLE: Grizzly

WING: 2 white goose biots



Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Shifu

Al The Hackleman

What A Year, 2020

COVID 19

There, I have said it. What a year it's been. Our club, The Michigan Fly Fishing Club, has sure had one heck of a year. Our 50th year, and we have not celebrated yet. Our Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, the longest running fly show in the entire country, and it did not happen this year. Our Opening Day Celebration, many of our fishing trips, so many meetings, all cancelled. WOW.

As I sit here and look at our river, the Manistee River, that Joyce and I live on, I cannot get away from the feeling of how lucky we all are. While it has been a tough year for our club and many of us, a year like this brings me so many memories of wonderful shared experiences that I just feel so thankful. I think back over the years and smile and plan to add to the memories. Let me share some of the great memories that I have had from our club.

I can fondly remember the very first time I attended an MFFC meeting. It was the Fall of 1988, and I walked into the school lunchroom where we meet and found a longtime friend sitting there. Peter Albertson was sitting at a table near the wall and we spotted each other and things got really good really fast. Peter and I had known each other for years. We lived in the same neighborhood and had children the same ages. I think that our first spoken words that night were, "I did not know you fly fished." We sat together and laughed about past shared experiences and chatted a bit about fly fishing. After some quick conversation we both sat and quietly listened to the club

President bring the meeting to order. We enjoyed the meeting and we both stood and introduced ourselves during the "first time attendee" part. From there we both were hooked. 32 years later we both are still members and friends and fish together whenever we can.

Of course after the first meeting things got even better. Who among us can ever forget our first time winning a prize at the raffle? What a wonderful raffle we have. And I can remember so many meetings that folks who visited for the first time won a big prize, sometimes the last prize, at their first meeting. As we always said, "They are hooked now."

Then we got around to our Midwest Fly Fishing Expo. Volunteering and working the show, enjoying all the vendors and presentations. Being part of that wonderful weekend just seems like a dream to me. Having enjoyed each show, and always finding something of interest, or something that I need, was a great part of the fun. I say it each year, and it is still so true, during our show I feel sorry for kids and Christmas, because they only get one day of Christmas and I get TWO DAYS OF OUR SHOW.

We have such wonderful meetings. Such great guest speakers. Such great spotlight fly tyers. So much to learn and share and enjoy. Past President Tony Yuhus started the schedule that we still follow today, one meeting with a guest speaker a one meeting with activities. The speaker meetings are always a good learning time...so many items about fly fishing and the fish and rivers we all love. From fishing for Bass to fishing for Carp, the learning is still going on for us all. In 2002, I started the spotlight fly tyer program on the activities meeting night. We as a club are so blessed with so many truly talented fly tyers that it just seemed right to highlight them. Another

learning time and the learning continues to this day because we still have so many great fly tyers in our club. Add to that the rod building and casting time in the gym and it really makes the activities meetings a great time to learn some new parts of fly fishing.

I have to say, for me probably the best part of our meetings is the social time spent with other crazy fly fishers. Each meeting offers the chance to chat with someone new, someone different from the normal folks we sit with at each meeting. Maybe someone that is new to the club and has lots of questions that bring back memories. Maybe someone that just fished for Steelhead in a new "secret spot." Or maybe someone that is planning a saltwater trip during the winter and looking for more participants. Lots of options and lots of opportunities. Maybe a new rod brought into the gym to cast for the first time. Some new tying materials showed off, or new pattern that just excited the fish last weekend. Or maybe pictures of fish caught and released a few days ago. What great stuff. I fondly remember some early conversations with other members about all the special things we talk about, in our secret language of fly fishing. Chats about "tippet" and "X" sizes. Talks about "secret spots" and new spots, and maybe just good spots on the Huron River. We do have our own language about "hackle" and materials and places to find the right bird for special patterns that we share and this gives us all another learning experience.

So we have missed some of that stuff this year. But the club still exists. Our friends still are there and are just a phone call or email away. And I for one know that when this thing ends, and it will end, and we can have meetings again the welcome back meetings will be awesome. So much to catch up on. So much to share. So many laughs and shared memories to enjoy. Hang in there my friends, it will come back and I am sure we will be even better than before. Tight lines.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events

Peter Albertson

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 States recreational opportunities. If you have a topic - Action Item, for the CC to engage with, please bring the topic to my attention and be willing to be the lead contact within the CC regarding the topic, and provide related Action Item follow up for the CC.

Now, as most should be aware, we shortly have an election. Please vote! Your voice is very important. On the ballot is Michigan Proposal 1, the Use of State and Local Park Funds Amendment. See <https://ballotpedia.org>

[Michigan_Proposal_1_Use_of_State_and_Local_Park_Funds_Amendment_\(2020\)](#) for amendment overview.

CC Action Items are: Line 5 Great Lakes Tunnel Project is going through the approval process. EGLE is accepting public comments on the application until October 19, 2020. 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. As of August 12, 2020, Northville Township up-date, the applications have been placed on hold. PFAS: Michigan new rules officially adopted August 3, 2020. Registration is now open for the Great Lakes Virtual PFAS Summit, taking place October 26-30. Statutes and administrative rules regarding the licensing and regulation of commercial fishers in Michigan House Bills 4567, 4568 and 4569 passed by the House, needs action by the Senate.

Resources: EGLE: Michigan Department Of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; 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.pdfutm_campaign=website&utm_source=community.citizenclimate.org&utm_medium=email.

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



In Special Recognition

Barry Green

A big thank you goes out to Barry Green for producing and hosting the Michigan Fly Fishing Club Zoom meetings from his super secret Covid bunker.

Bruce Strachan

Striper Fishing

First Schoolie Striped Bass!

My initiation to Stripers, caught on a falling tide from a lagoon on Eastchester Bay near Pelham Bay Park NY. This urban fishery offers numerous sites to fly fish for migrating Striped Bass and Blue Fish each spring and fall. Check out Phil Shook's Flyfisher's Guide to the Northeast Coast, an extensive reference to marine fly fishing in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut.

Any club member interested in NE Striper fishing is welcome to contact Bruce Strachan, 248-346-6391.



Pelham Bay Park, NY



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