



The Evening

# Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

May 2021

## Finally A True Opener!



Trout Team Six and friends on the Friday before the Opener. From left to right; Spencer Vanderhoof, Dave Begley, Kyle Walicki, Bill Cusumano, Ken Thelen, Corey Thelen. Photo by Jeff McGowan.



John Bayerl dressed for AuSable River piracy on the Opener.

### Opening Day - Time for Friends & Memories of Trout

By Al Haxton

Thoughts about Opening Day 2021:

We had an Opening Day celebration this year that felt like it was a long time coming, yet it happened and all that attended enjoyed the shared time and memories. The Michigan Fly Fishing Club has had this Opening Day celebration for 20 years now; that is quite a statement in my opinion. Twenty years of remembering, and thinking about, friends and fishing buddies we have lost.

It has been quite a comforting long running tradition, but it has also been



Al Haxton

a tough 20 years. We have missed so many smiling faces that shared our love of this sport.

At first this was a memorial get together for a good friend of mine, Bud Cruder. Bud was, for me, the older brother I never had. He introduced me to some new spots to fish and some new fishing rods to use. He got me into the Winston rod craziness and we shared a lot of fishing times and

laughter together. Bud passed away close to New Year's Eve 2000. Two la-

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## Michigan Fly Fishing Club Calendar

- 5/12/21 Board
- 5/19/21 Speaker: Corey Haselhuhn of Schultz Outfitters in Ypsilanti
- 5/20/21 Smallmouth Bass Outing at Port Austin
- 6/9/21 Speaker TBA
- 7/14/21 Speaker TBA
- 8/25/21 Speaker TBA

# The State of Our MFFC

By Bruce Strachan

As we all know, the past 16 months have been challenging. Despite the global and local challenges, our Club remains strong, vibrant, and financially sound. Thanks for our success goes to our Club Members who continued to volunteer their time, talents and even money to sustain us during this unprecedented time.

Although we thought our financial situation could become problematic with the 2020 and then the 2021 cancellation of our Expo, the Board of directors along with the Expo Chairs were able to rise above this crisis through hard work, dedication and planning.

We did have some setbacks as a result of these cancellations, and we were not able to provide our annual CRF (Conservation Reserve Fund) donations.

With creativity and volunteer assistance we were able to continue our meetings online. Throughout this time the Board of Directors were able to find ways to continue the Club functions and keep our membership steady and informed.

Our Club's future has been assured by the Board's deliberate work and decision making, guided by our Treasurer (and 2020 Howard Geller Volunteer of the Year Award winner) Kathy Oehring. Kathy's recommendations and guidance was instrumental in re-assessing our budget, and finding ways to reduce and fix expenses such as communication, property storage, and insurance.

There were some hard decisions, some of which were ours and some which were made for us, such as the inability to use school facilities, or to attend Outdoorama and the Ultimate Fishing Show (both of which were cancelled during the pandemic). The Board decided to discontinue our MUCC affiliation due to financial constraints; we also had to forgo some traditional Club outings such as the Trout Tune-up and our annual banquet.

We did suffer financially when the Expos were canceled and we had to rely solely on membership dues to fund



*What binds us all together; A fly fisher searches for trout during a cold, rainy morning on the South Branch of the Au Sable River.*

the Club. I take great pride in how our members rose to the occasion, donating generously to the Club's general fund.

After reflection and long discussion, the Board amended the 2020-21 budget and this year adopted the 2021-22 Budget which anticipates a successful Expo and a hopeful path to normalcy for our Club.

While we had our challenges, we also had our unsung heroes who deserve recognition. Silver linings in our predicament appeared early in the pandemic.

Board member, Barry Green, created and produced monthly Club and board Zoom meetings, including activity meetings filled with talent enlisted by Corresponding Secretary, Jim Fischer and Vice-President, Sybil Hunter. Sybil Hunter also rose to the occasion and served as acting President during my recent illness, leading the meetings while I recovered.

Our Zoom meetings continue to draw attendance of 30-50 members and facilitate the camaraderie and connection our members enjoy. (If you have not Zoomed into a meeting, check Constant Contact announcements or

MFFC.org for details. No one will ever forget Peter and his intermission ukulele performance.)

While the pandemic may have created challenges, out of crisis come opportunity. Paid membership is currently 334 strong.

Club rosters are normally distributed in person at a Club meeting. This year, because we are not meeting in person, any Member can request a roster by contacting a Board member. After thoughtful discussion the Board determined this would be the best manner of providing a Club roster, as the Board feels it is very important to honor and respect the privacy of our Club members.

The Board continues to monitor the local circumstances and is discussing various venue options for when we can meet again in person.

We will continue meeting by Zoom while we cannot meet in person and it would be great to see our Zoom meetings crowded with many more faces. With our Zoom capability the Board expects to continue broadcasting our meetings on Zoom which will provide

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# Honoring Three Who Made a Difference



Geller Award Committee Chairman Mike Matuszewski presents past President Dave Nowicki the special Howard Geller Volunteer of the Year Award for 2020 during a MFFC Zoom meeting. Kevin Lipp examines the fly rod that came with his 2021 volunteer honor.

## Zooming In On Three Howard Geller Volunteers of the Year Winners

The May 5 MFFC Zoom meeting not only offered the first quasi-public recognition of the Volunteers of the Year for 2020 and 2021 (Kathy Oehring for 2020 and Kevin Lipp for 2021), it also marked the announcement of a special Howard Geller Volunteer of the Year Award for 2020. Honored with

the 2020 Howard Geller Volunteer of the Year Award was past President Dave Nowicki.

In making the announcement, ad hoc Geller Award Committee Chairman Mike Matuszewski said the Committee felt that Nowicki's leadership guiding the Club through the "complicated" circumstances faced by the Club in 2020 merited acknowledgement.

"The word 'unprecedented' will long be associated with the Covid years of 2020 and 2021, but in our Club's case, we've never faced anything like it. There were months of uncertainty surrounding the State of Michigan's inquiry concerning Club's long-standing door prize practice at twice-monthly meetings to the Covid-related cancellation of the 2020 Midwest Fly Fishing Exposition (just a day before set-up at the Macomb County Community College Sports & Exposition Center in Warren) and the cancellation of a whole range of activities and meetings. Dave calmly and coolly led the Board and the Club through dealing with the challenges. The committee felt it merited special recognition."

Normally, the Club awards only one Geller Award each year. Again, normally, the award would have been presented at the annual banquet in May. "It was the Committee's intent to surprise Dave with the special award at the 2020 Banquet, but we never got that opportunity. While this isn't quite the same, we are ever so proud to recognize Dave's leadership and contributions. The recognition is well deserved and his leadership during these challenges is most appreciated," Matuszewski said.

*Kathy Oehring receives her plague and fly rod from Mike Matuszewski for being honored as the Howard Geller Volunteer of the Year for 2020.*





# Michigan Fly Fishing Club

# Business

## Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board of Directors Meeting April 14, 2021

### Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 7:44 p.m.

*Present:* S. Hunter; Oehring; Fischer; Niemi; Bada; Sejalon; Green; Nowicki

*Absent:* Strachan; Mayes

*Visitors:* None

**Approval of Agenda** - Approved.

**Approval of Minutes** - Approved with minor spelling/date changes

### Officer's Report

**President:** Strachan

Nothing to report.

**Vice President:** Hunter

- A Club member submitted venue information for possibly future meetings at Farmington Unity Church, at a price

of \$270 per meeting. Summer Wednesday dates are available at this venue at this time.

- Schotts tendered his resignation for Hatch's column Fly Of The Month; email via Constant Contact to go out recognizing his longtime publication efforts.
- Board Packets will be placed on the shared Board of Directors drive going forward.

**Treasurer:** Oehring

- Current month's treasurer's report was approved. Invoices for storage units received.
- Approval of 2021-2022 Budget. Anticipation on having an Expo.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Fischer

- Distribution list of 315 on Constant Contact.
- Eight email blasts since last Board meeting sent to 2,939 recipients with an average open rate of 57%. The highest open rate was 69% for the birth announcement.
- The next eblast will include Peter Albertson's tie along, a Trout Opener note, a Smallmouth Bass Outing reminder; and a Yellowstone note (2 slots open).
- Upcoming schedule: May tie along. May speaker TBD, June speaker TBD, July speaker TBD.

**Membership:** Niemi

- 355 current members.
- 5 new members since February.

## 2019 - 2020 Officers

**President:**  
**Bruce Strachan**  
*president@mffc.org*

**Vice President:**  
**Sybil Hunter**  
*sybilsvpemail@gmail.com*

**Cooresponding Secretary:**  
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**Recording Secretary:**  
**Jon Bada**  
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**Treasurer**  
**Kathy Oehring**  
*treasurer@mffc.org*

**Membership**  
**Bob Niemi**  
*membership@mffc.org*

**Immediate Past President:**  
**David Nowicki**  
*info@mffc.org*

## At-Large Directors

**Barry Green**  
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**David Mayes**  
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**Fred Sejalonn**  
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### Hatch Editor

**Sybil Hunter**  
*evening.hatch.mffc@gmail.com*

### Webmaster

**Harry Briggs**  
*habriggs@gmail.com*



## Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board of Directors Meeting November 11, 2020

- Bob Niemi moved to Boyne City.
- Dissemination of the Club roster discussed.

### Events & Outings

- WawaSum July Outing (July 14-17, 2021): One person per room limitation, unless from same household. 8 rooms available. Porch is limited to 2 guests at a time. Minimum fee of \$500 waived during Covid restrictions. \$40 per person per night. RSVP to Jon Bada.
- Trout Tune-Up Tent Rental: Contribution jar for contribution due to lower rate negotiated.

### New Business

- Proposed Facebook Meet and Connect Blog: connection point for Club members, Facebook contact is unknown. Currently no one is monitoring the Facebook page. Corresponding Secretary to send out a blast on a future date. Niemi to work on a fix.
- Formal State Of The Club Announcement: State of the club, finances, health of the Club, investigation of venues, to be sent through eblast to members. Hunter will contact Strachan for summary.

### Old Business

- MUCC Affiliation Dues: MUCC dues for every Club member was not paid. Nowicki advised approaching membership about budget concerns and to reassess when finances improve.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.



*Opening Morning Chats. Before hitting the river MFFC members discuss the day at Gates of the Au Sable Lodge. John Bayerl talks with Jeff McGowan (left) while Corey Thelan (center) listens to other club members.*

## Thanks To All Its Members, the MFFC Is Still Vibrant and Strong

*Continued from page 2*

access to Members who are unable to attend meetings in person, increasing our ability to keep in touch with our members across different media. While the pandemic may have setback others, it helped bring the MFFC into the 21st Century!

Please be sure to read our feature packed newsletter *The Evening Hatch*, the informational Constant Contact emails, and visit our updated and redesigned website ([www.MFFC.org](http://www.MFFC.org)) to stay on top of all things MFFC.

Meetings and exciting activities have been planned for member's angling pleasure despite, and in spite of, the worldwide pandemic.

Al Haxton was able to safely host our annual Trout Opener on April 24. This will be followed by the Wa Wa Sum Outing, Club Picnic, Smallmouth Outing, and in late July the annual ex-

pedition to Montana and Yellowstone National Park.

In late September our inaugural Striper Fishing Trip to Mystic Connecticut that will introduce members to salt-water striper fishing.

These predominantly self-funded activities offer a promising normalcy for MFFC members.

Yes, we have faced our challenges, however despite these challenges, I am proud to announce the The State of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club is vibrant, anticipating a future with the participation and volunteerism of you, its members. Please continue to join your fellow members in supporting our Club and look forward to our continuing success!

Respectfully,  
**Bruce Strachan**  
President, Michigan Fly Fishing Club

### *Chasing Carp & Bass at the Next Zoom Meeting*

Corey Haselhuhn, Sales Manager at Schultz Outfitters in Ypsilanti, will discuss preparing for warm water species and focusing particularly on Smallmouth Bass and Carp during the MFFC Zoom Meeting on May 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Corey grew up fishing warm water species in the Great Lakes and has spent the last 10 years exploring op-

portunities in warm water fly fishing around Metro Detroit. Corey spends the majority of his time chasing bass and carp on the Huron River and makes it priority to help others learn their way in the journey of fly fishing.

To join the next Zoom Meeting see the MFFC e-blast sent out May 13 or go to [MFFC.org](http://MFFC.org).



# *Last Saturday in April* **And We Even Caught Some Trout**



*Above: Scott Freeburg with a rainbow trout on opening day. Photo by Jeff McGowan.*



*Top: A fine rainbow trout from the mainstream of the Au Sable on opening day. Photo by Scott Freeburg. Above: Rob Bulsewicz serving the morning Bloody Marys used to toast our Club members who have passed. He and his wife A.L. Bulsewicz donated the bar items. Right: Scott Freeburg chatting with Cindy Center, wife of Eric Center who was honored in this year's club member memorial.*



# MFFC Members Celebrate & Do A Little Fishing



Above: Kyle Walicki in the front of Jeff McGowan's Au Sable boat the day before Opening Day. Photo by Bill Cusumano. Left: Spencer Vanderhoof and Dave Begley on the mainstream of the Au Sable on Opening Day! Right: A shore lunch of lobster bisque after a successful morning on the mainstream.



## *Al Haxton - We Are So Lucky to Live in Michigan on Opening Day*

*Continued from page 1*

dies that were important in his life, Claudia Alexander and Kathy Gross, put the Opening Day Memorial together in 2001, and many club members attended. That started the 20-year tradition, which has been quite a shared journey.

During these years, we have bid farewell to so many of our brothers and sisters of the long rod, so many folks that shared a bit of themselves with us in so many different aspects of our sport. Between fly tying, casting, rod building, secret spot collecting, finding new fish to catch, and so many other parts of our sport, we have all been enriched by the opportunity to learn new things. It has been said many times that fly fishing is the sport of lifelong learning, and with all of our members it has proven time and time again to be so very true. We have lost folks that lead our meetings, folks that shared casting secrets, folks that showed us new fly-tying items and patterns, folks that worked our show from morning to night, and folks that introduced us to new rivers and streams around the state.

When I joined our club, Opening Day was a time to get together with some other club members and fish. I can remember so many times meeting up with some buddies and fishing different areas of the AuSable River on the last Saturday of April each year. We shared some time in the water, some time in a bar for lunch, and some time in a fly

shop getting new things we all needed. Those were fun times and frankly some of the folks are still fishing, while some, unfortunately, have been spoken about at our Opening Day Memorial Celebration. Opening Day always holds a special place on my calendar.

We are all so lucky to live here in Michigan. We have numerous trout streams, trout lakes and little blue lines on maps to explore. We can drive a few minutes to bass fish; there are so many other species of fish that the opportunities are truly mind boggling. Salmon, Steelhead and other large species abound around Michigan. We have streams that are open to fishing all year long, and streams that offer such a smorgasbord of species to fish for, and learn from, that the possibilities are almost endless.

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club has members that will share so many spots to enjoy that the fishing never ends and never gets boring. All of the folks we remember each year shared the enjoyment of our addiction. In my opinion that is the best part of our club. We all share the fun. Nobody is immune to the fun of sharing the spots, and flies, and rods, and all that makes our sport so very special.

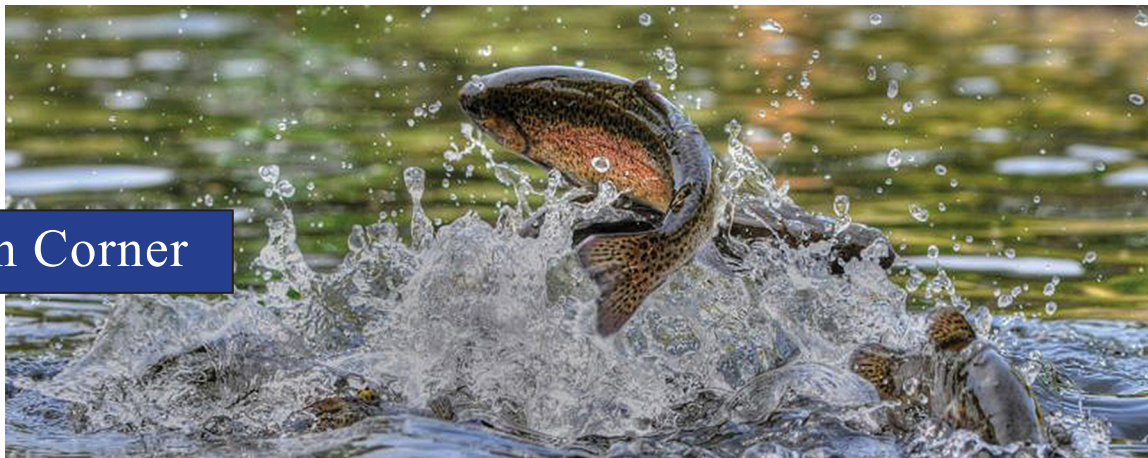
Happy Opening Day to all. Now go out and fish remembering all the folks that taught us more about the art of fly fishing.



# Conservation Corner

Peter Albertson's

Conservation Corner



## Conservation Corner May 2021

Beginning with this edition of the Evening Hatch, the Conservation Corner (CC) is revising its format. Additional changes might be in the works in the future as the editors search for a more reader-friendly format and efficient use of the space.

Going forward, I will list topics in the Hatch and send out a separate CC Information Page to those that sign-up. Interested members please send your email address to: [palbertsonsp@icloud.com](mailto:palbertsonsp@icloud.com).

*Current CC topics are:* Johnson Creek Discharge; Pipe Lines 5/6; Back Forty Mine; Minnesota Boundary Waters Proposed Mine; Michigan/National Threatened and Endangered Species; Kalamazoo River Issues; MI PFAS Water Standards; Black River Sturgeon Protection Project; and Protect Our Waters organization.

Please contact me by email to receive up-dates or share future concerns you wish to see highlighted in CC. Be Safe, Peter Albertson.

## Yellowstone National Park Increases Fishing Fees This Year

### From Trout Unlimited

Beginning this season, fees for fishing and boating permits in Yellowstone National Park will increase. Anglers can now purchase fishing permits online via [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). Permits for the upcoming season can also be acquired in-park stores and surrounding communities beginning this spring.

The fee increases are substantial. Fishing permit fees will rise from \$18 to \$40 for a three-day permit; from \$25 to \$50 for a seven-day permit; and from \$40 to \$75 for an annual. This is the first fishing license fee increase in Yellowstone since 2012.

According to the National Park Service, the new fees were determined by taking the average of resident and non-resident fishing permit fees from Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. There's also a fee for the online service.

The new fees are comparable to those of state and

other national park permits, and mark the first time the park has increased its boating fees since 1993. The number of boats on Yellowstone Lake increased nearly 10 percent in 2020.

The resulting increase in revenue from the fee increases will guarantee funding and provide a sustained revenue source that will contribute to continued efforts to reduce nonnative lake trout and increase the park's aquatic invasive species (AIS) inspection capacity.

"The accomplishments of Yellowstone National Park and its partners to recover the park's namesake native trout are a cause for celebration," said said TU President and CEO Chris Wood. "The common-sense fee increases proposed by the park, and its commitment to use the additional revenues to support Yellowstone trout restoration, should be celebrated by anglers across the nation."



# A Tie Along *Skinny Dippers & Bluegill Bombers*

*with Todd Schotts*

**I**would like to thank the membership and the Board of Directors for extending the opportunity to lead as May's Featured Tyer of the Month. It was such an awesome time - as usual. If you missed it, or if you need a reminder, here is a wrap up of some of the tying tricks used for the flies I tied.

The first fly was my "Griz's Panfish Swingin' Skinny Dipper." This fly was just a fluke when I designed it, as I was playing with material left over on my desk, but when it all came together to be tested on various watersheds, it was unbelievable. There are three major techniques needed for this pattern. The first is for putting the Squirmy Wormy material on for the tail. Remember to lay the material on the side of the hook next to you, and as you tie it

in, it will rotate to top of the hook. I do not recommend using any type of adhesive, as glue causes a melted mess in conjunction with the fly materials used.



Todd A. Schotts

The next recommendation is for tying in the soft hackle. Remember to keep the shiny side

(front side) of the hackle facing outward when wrapping the hackle on. Note that you may have to counter wrap to get this to happen. The last trick for tying this fly is to trim the tail material down to about hook gap or less...unless you want to give

## Bluegill Bombers



**Originator - Matt (Warm Water Fly Fisher), PA**

**Hook:** Nymph/Wet Fly Hook, Sizes 8 & 10

**Thread:** Black 8/0 or 70 Denier

**Body:** Brown Chenille or Yarn

**Rib:** UTC Small Copper Wire

**Wing:** Pheasant or Whiting Brahma Hen Cape Dyed March Brown - Hackle Tip

**Hackle:** Whiting Brahma Hen Cape Dyed March Brown

## Griz's Panfish Swingin' Skinny Dippers



**Created & Tied by Todd A. Schotts**

**Hook:** Sizes 8 & 10 w/2x Gap Nymph/Emerger Hook

(My preference is FireSticks 316 from Fire Hole Outdoors)

**Thread:** 8/0 or 70 Denier color to match body

**Bead:** 5/32 Cyclops Fl. Beads (See Below)

**Tail:** Squirmy Wormy (See Below)

**Body:** Estaz (See Below)

**Wing:** Whiting Brahma Hen Saddle Mottled Gray/Brown

that fly to your fishing buddy and watch them get frustrated as the fish bite and stretch the squirmy tail material instead of taking the fly.

My second fly, the "Bluegill Bomber" was designed By Matt (Warm Water Fly Fisher) PA on fly-angersonline.com. If you want to add lead to the fly, the best location is on the side of the hook, opposite yourself. This technique was done by Gary LaFontaine with his "Drunken Sailor" Streamer pattern. This helps the fly to sink, and makes it wobble in the water. Do not use any lead over 0.020. You want it to sink gradually, not sink like a rock. The weight I prefer is 0.015 -- for this exact reason. (I also use it on my "New Age G2" by Gilly Getter). And, don't forget to counter wrap

	TAIL	BODY	BEAD
White	Neon Green	White Estaz UV	Fl.Yellow
Brown	Orange	Rootbeer Estaz UV	Fl. Orange
Purple	Pink	Purple Estaz UV	Fl. Pink

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# Skinny Dippers, Spiders & Bluegill Bombers

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the copper wire when wrapping it forward over the yarn/chenille body. This helps maintain the fly's integrity and will keep the wire from getting buried in the body materials. The next suggestion is for tying in the wing; make sure you flatten the hackle stem and tie it in on the side toward you. When tying it in, it will swing or rotate up to the top and stay there. Remember, do not make the wing to go past  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the body in length. The last thing to remember is, when tying in the hackle collar, face the front side (shiny side) out when wrapping. You can use the whole soft hackle feather, or as I demonstrated, you can remove one side of the soft hackle and wrap it for a sparser fly. I prefer using the half hackle method. This keeps your fly from getting too intertwined with the many hackle fibers.

The last fly tyed was the "AMS Cap Spider" designed by Michael Verduin. This is one of my favorite patterns for panfish, especially Crappie. If you cannot locate size 10 jig hooks or the slotted beads to go with the jig hooks, don't worry. Take a standard nymph hook with a gold bead, and once in the vise, rotate it so the hook point points up. This will let the bead fall so the bottom with the bead against the hook shank. Take thread and make a bump, or pad, where the bead will be (right up against the eye of the hook), and with Super Glue immobilize the bead. Once dry, the bottom of the bead will be secured to the hook shank. Rotating the hook over, you will now have a knock-off beaded jig hook. It won't work exactly like a jig hook, but will be really close. One nice thing about jig hooks is they do not snag up very much in the because of the way they travel through the water.

With the tag at the end of the fly (remember not to trim off the tag end) fold it over and wrap it down.



*Trying to catch that elusive 9-inch pumpkinseed? Todd Schotts' panfish flies can help in that quest.*

This will remove the possibility of having a small bump or thread piece hanging there. I prefer a florescent tag on the back. You can use Glo-

Brite Floss or even Veevus Thread, which manufacturers some great florescent colors. I prefer using orange, chartreuse, pink, or red. Don't forget to UV light treat the tag, securing it. There are so many great UV products out there, but I prefer UV Craft ultra-thin brushable resin. I have not had any issues with this product (save a colleague leaving it out in the afternoon sun curing the entire bottle...). You do want a good UV light to cure the resin. An additional trick is to lay the flies out in the sun to help further cure it.

For dubbing, I like to use SLF Squirrel Dubbing in brown or black, but Rabbit Dubbing is effective as well. Remember when tying in the legs, take three pieces of the medium rubber legs and attach them about inch and three quarters ( $1\frac{3}{4}$ ") long, tying them in on each side of the hook. Once everything is secured, tie off, then pull the legs apart. Make sure all ends are equal. Trim up.

I hope this helps you construct some fantastic flies. During tying, if you have any further questions, I would be more than glad to help out. You can contact me at [GrizzlyFlies@Yahoo.com](mailto:GrizzlyFlies@Yahoo.com); make sure the email subject line displays your tying question.

Until next time I tie, Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.

## AMS CAP Spider

**Pattern Originator**  
**Michael Verduin**



In the early 2000's, Michael captured three National Bream Tournaments (US) fishing only Cap Spiders. Fish the Cap Spider with a long leader, using tiny strips to drag the fly along the bottom. The jig head allows the hook to ride-up making it nearly snag-proof.

**Hook:** Jig Head Size #10/124  
Ounce

**Thread:** Black or Dark Brown  
70 Denier or 8/0

**Butt:** Chartreuse Floss

**Body:** Dark Brown or Black  
Rabbit or SLF Dubbing

**Legs:** Medium Brown or Black

# And Another Tie Along

*Peter Albertson Zooms into Three Great Patterns Last Month*

## By Sybil Hunter

Long time member and past president Peter Albertson, who first joined the Club under the alias Al Peterson, was April's featured tyer. Peter opened with the challenge that for every attendee who made it to the very end, he would donate "five bucks" to the club in honor of Five Dollar Joe (Sattler). For a belated tie-along see the notes below.

"Let's start with the Griffith's Gah-nat," said Peter – a standing joke.

Hook placement: "I put it in just



*Griffith's Gnat*

**Hook:** 16-20 dry fly or whatever you have...

**Thread:** Black 8/0 more or less

**Body:** Peacock herl

**Hackle:** Grizzly, palmered or something leaning towards dark.

far enough to not poke my fingers on the hook," said Peter. Tie on. Use a tying tool (bobbin thread) as a guide to know how close to the eye to tie. Don't crowd the eye.

When tying in the herl, "If you really want to keep control, tie up to the front and tie it back," to really lock the herl down. Keep the tying materials extended past the back of the hook. "At this point you can tie in a rib;" not listed in the pattern above. "Move the thread to the front. Carefully and evenly wrap the herl to the front of the hook, tie it off. Bring the rib forward (if includ-

ed) segmenting the body, tie it off.

Next tie in the hackle. Trim the hackle from the sides of the spine, leaving a few short tines for the thread to catch upon tie in. Tie in the hackle, bring it forward, then tie it off. "I like to trim stuff back so I can see the eye of the hook," said Peter.

"Another thing you can do is put in some CDC," said Peter. "I tie it in because I bought it." Big pause. "Never go to a fly show with your fishing buddies. You end up with all kinds of things," you didn't know you needed. "Tie in the CDC, it makes the fly easier to see." Jeff McGowan let attendees know CDC is short for Cul De Canard, directly translated as "end of the duck" or duck butt. "Do not necessarily post it, but have it more as an overwing."

"I just whip finish it," said Peter. "If you trim it at the bottom and it will go down further in the water, in the film. The nice thing about these, they are easy to use and a quick tie."



*Beaman's Ghost*

**Hook:** 2XL Steamer

**Thread:** Black

**Weight:** Nontoxic "lead wire"

**Rib:** Gold flat tinsel...or silver...or embossed...

**Body:** Black wood...or similar chenille

**Wing:** White or whiteish hackle

**Throat:** Red or yellow hackle, tied sparsely

"This fly is from *Michigan Classic Flies*," said Peter. "Both the gnat and Beaman's Ghost are in this book. It has a yarn body, metal wrap for the rib, two paired feathers and a little red beard."

Peter put a size 12 hook in his vice. Tie on. Tie in the black yarn, extending over the back of the hook. Tie in the rib. Bring the thread to the front of the hook. "I use a textured rib," said Peter. "Holding the material towards me, I sorta spiral it towards me, keeping the material on the top of the hook. With the thread already forward, bring the yarn forward, nice and even. Tie it off. Bring the mylar rib forward. Tie it off."

Tie in the red saddle feather at the front. "Recipes always say tie this sparse, so that's what I'm going to do. Wrap. Check it. Wrap. Check it...try to take a couple of turns below to make it stand up. Tie it off. Twist it a little.

Next tie in the wings. "I try to take two of the feathers off that are about the same length and size," said Peter. "I place them so that the curvy sides are together and adjust the lengths to match. Cut some of the barbules from each side of the feather's base. Tie them in. Adjust them slightly. Wrap the head. Whip finish."

*Ukulele fishing song Intermission* (I hear this helps the dubbing stick.)

## *The Stimulator*

"This is a stimulator fly," said Peter, "it's an attractor fly floating down riffles. I have used it as the top fly on a two fly rig."

Put the hook in the vice. Tie on bright red/orange thread. Tie on the wire hanging off the back of the hook. "When I started tying this fly I could never figure out what the wire was for," said Peter. He left us

## And Another Tie Along

Continued from page 11

all hanging.

Tie in the moose hair tail after



### *The Stimulator*

**Hook:** 200R 6-16 or use whatever you have but the larger the better.

**Thread:** Fluorescent fire orange

**Tail:** Light elk, flared wide

**Rib:** Fine gold wire

**Abdomen:** Bright yellow, orange, green Antron palmered with badger or ginger hackle

**Wing:** Light elk, flared wide and tall

**Hackle:** Grizzly, 3-5 turns thru thorax

**Thorax:** Amber or same as the abdomen more or less

stacking it, tips down. "I make it a little bit longer just because I like it that way," said Peter, extending the tail length. With the thread at the back, add dubbing wax. "It is difficult to make things stick," said Peter, "so I've been putting on a light amount (of wax)." Spin the yellow dubbing around the thread and bring it forward. Peter suggests Hareline Dubbin, Fur Dubbin.

(Purists beware!)

"Bring it over the body where you are going to put a hackle. Tie it in at the front. Take the hackle to the back....and that is why we put the wire on!"

"When I get the hackle to the back of the fly, I'm going to use the wire to tie off the hackle. Then bring the wire up

front without squishing any of the barbules." Be careful. Tie it off in front. Whip finish.

By the end, Peter had garnered 38 attendees that hung on "to the bitter end." (The official final number became 39, as Kathy Oehring insisted she and Don counted as separate attendees even though they had to share an iPad because they were watching from their fishing trip on the Manistee. See below.)



*Don Oehring with a 30-inch, 11-pound steelhead, caught fishing with friend in a drift boat on the Manistee River near Tippy Dam just before the opener. A black stone fly was on the end of his line.*



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