**FROGGIN’ TIME!!!**

*By Todd A. Schotts*

September brings us the fall season, cider mills, football, salmon fishing, hunting, and the kickoff of Michigan Fly Fishing Clubs Activity Meetings with Casting in the gym, Featured Tyer, and back by popular demand Beginning Fly Tying.

Remember we need tyers to fill our months at our activity meetings. If you are interested, see me at a meetings or you contact me at GrizzlyFlies@yahoo.com. Kicking off our “Featured Tyer” at the September meeting I will take the reins and get us going. I will be tying my Griz’s “Splish Splash Frogger.”

For the fishing report on me, I have been in the Michigan Fly Fishing Club for many-many moons. I served on the board of directors as Corresponding Secretary and Director at Large. Plus, I was honored to receive the clubs “Howard Geller Volunteer of the Year” award, I have helped with our clubs’ events & schools, been Chair for Guest Tyers at our Midwest Expo, contribute articles to the Club’s newsletter, organize our Featured Tyers at meetings, and ran the famed Smallmouth Outing for 11 years. I started out at 7 people and had 58 attendees when I stepped down. Along with the MFFC, I am currently in my 2nd term as acting President for the Huron River Fishing Association and help out with various outings and events. I run and operate Michigan Bobbin Slingers (fly tyers) on Facebook for the Art and Craft of Fly Tying. I post various tying videos every Monday & Friday, along with members putting up flies they tie, and I do Live Fly Tying on there from late fall to spring time. And to finish the fishing report, I own and operate Grizzly Flies by Schottsie, a production and custom fly-tying company. I supply flies all over the United States, Canada, and in Europe. Along with production tying, I do Power Point & tying presentations around the Midwest, at various Club meetings and at various fly fishing & tying shows. And I am on the Pro-Teams of Anadramous Fly Company, Norvise, TFO, and am Ambassador to UV Craft.

Tonight’s fly will be my popular **Griz’s “Splish Splash Frogger**. This fly was a vision I had back in 2014, as I love to use Scum Frogs in spin casting to fish lily pads and weed lines. But I wanted to take that knowledge to fly fishing, so after various testing models, in 2016 the final product was achieved. Now I could use my fly rod and chase big Bass and Pike in and around the lily pads and weed lines.

 *Tying this fly*, I tie these on Allen Hook Bass Hooks from size 2 to 10. These hooks are perfect for tying these, in size, hook gap, and design of the hook. The bigger size targeting pike and musky, with the smaller size bass and bigger panfish. I only tie these in 2 colors, green and black foam. The green is best all day, with the black works great just before and right after dark. The foam helps to create the weedless effect. The legs I use are actually silicone legs and have great movement in the water. The original pattern I used saddle hackle to hold the legs toward the back, but after seeing a YouTube video, I found a new way of using small piece of foam to help hold the legs back. If I could remember the tyers name, I would give him created for sure. I still put the saddle hackle on the fly to cover up the inside of the fly. The final piece of the fly, I put on eyes that are not really necessary. But I use either various stick-on eyes or doll eyes.

When fishing this fly, I recommend a 9ft fly rod and nothing less than a 7 weight. This only helps in casting the fly, and getting the fish on. I use a heavy-duty straight leader about 5ft or 6ft in length, and the weight is 15lb or heavier. I use a 17lb about 5ft straight leader to the fly. One thing you want to remember, is to use mono for the leader. Mono it floats, and if you use fluorocarbon, it sinks gradually and it will not let the fly work like it is designed to. Some things to remember: when casting this into open areas in lily pads or along weed lines - let it sit when you plop it in; remember how long and when the rings disappear to start stripping it in (This applies to any top water, like poppers or gurglers. Wait because the big fish are usually watching and waiting. If you plop and start stripping, they will turn away.); one last thing to remember, most of the time the Bucketmouths (largemouth bass) or pike will come up and bump into the fly, then they will come back and take the fly. I had this happen up in a lake up by West Branch and missed the biggest pike I have every seen. You will know if they take fly rather than bump it.

 So, on September 20th, bring your vises, and tools, and we will be hopping on tying an amazing fly pattern. Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.



**Griz’s “Splish Splash Frogger**

**Hooks:** *Allen Hooks B200 Sizes 10, 8, 6, & 2*

**Body:** *2mm Craft Foam Green or Black*

**Weight:** *.035 tied on top of hook shank to keel hook over (2 pieces)*

**Legs:** *Silicone Rubber Legs Avocado w/Black (Green) & Purple Fuchsia (Black)*

**Leg Holder:** *Use a small piece of foam around the legs to hold in place*

**Hackle:** *Hen Hackle or Schlappen – Chartreuse (Green) & Purple (Black)*

**Eyes:** *Stick on or Doll Eyes – stick on Red (with Black) & Green Yellow (with Green)*