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Tippets, Tapers & Tales

October 3, 2023

President's Message

This month's meeting will be a good one. We have RCFF Member Mike Seremijian joining us in person at Coral Gables in the back banquet room to do a presentation on fly fishing for Smallmouth Bass. This will also be broadcast on Zoom for those of you that aren't able to be there in person. Remember to bring your dues to the October meeting and if you aren't able to make it in person if you would mail it in to the club's PO box address located on the back of this newsletter.

With this warmer weather we have had the last several days I am guessing some of you have been out fishing. If you have some pictures of your trip you can share with the club, email them to me and I will put them in the next newsletter.

See you at the October meeting.

Mark

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1981 McKenzie Cup Winners

The Red Cedar Fly Fishers is a Charter Club of Fly Fishers International.

It's purpose is to promote fly-fishing through Education, Restoration and Conservation

October's Presentation

By: Mark Johnson

In October, we will have RCFF member Mike Seremijian doing a presentation for us in person at Coral Gables on the 10th. The presentation is titled "Fishing Cats: Streamer Fishing for Trophy Smallmouth." We will be broadcasting this presentation by Zoom that night also.



Time to Pay Dues Again

By: Mark Johnson

It's that time of year again, the start of our club meeting year and that means club dues are due again. Bring your dues, cash or check for \$15.00 to the meeting in October or you can mail them to the P.O. Box address listed on the last page of the newsletter. Our annual dues are just a small part of our financial picture but still very important for the financial health of the club. Don't forget to pay your FFI dues also when those come due. We are a Charter Club of Fly Fishers International which means all our club members must be FFI members also. Thanks for your prompt payment of dues!

The Decline of Flyfishing...

By: Bob Kren

The Decline of Flyfishing as We Know It By Bob Kren, RCFFer, "Mr. Flip-phone," and Mr. Flyfishersonguy, too

Good-bye, Big Ben*.

Youngsters, nowadays, no longer write in cursive, nor in English so far as I can tell – they print.

And they can no longer read an analog clock – you know, the kind with “hands” and “numerals” around a “dial?” What does that mean to us? Very simply, we may no longer be able to teach them to cast a flyrod!

Remember “ten and two,” or “nine and one,” or “10:47 a.m. and 1:43 p.m.?” That’s how we learned where to stop our casting strokes. What’s to do when those numbers no longer have meaning? I guess we could put two digital clocks on posts and say “cast your rod tip between that one behind you, and that other one in front of you.” It seems to me there’s something lost in translation, though.

Things could be worse. My method of demonstrating casting is to stand in the sunlight and imagine that I am part of a sundial, with the Sun at my back and my shadow as noon, and the shadow of the rod as the dial. With my rod I can point out noon, and one and two, and eleven and ten, easily. I can move the rod back and forth, parallel to the ground, snapping with gusto at the end of each stroke, and show where to stop: lift the rod progressively higher, until it’s verticalish, and you’ll see the rudiments of casting. Voilà! (That’s French)

No more. Sundial, shmundial, as they say.

Not that modern technology doesn’t have its uses. For instance, we now can announce an event on “social media.” (My Webster’s Dictionary – remember dictionaries!, or do you just google words to find out what they mean – defines “social” as “. . . pleasant companionship with one’s friends or associates.”) Somehow “social” means to me having somebody else right there with you, and not at the end of an electronic tether. We can look up river flows, and sometimes water temperatures, websites and Facebook pages with usually accurate information, plus an almost infinite amount of instructions on flytying and knotbuilding and casting and . . . But I have to ask -- do you trust yourself to take a laptop onstream? A cellular ‘phone? No more than you’d take a copy of Humphrey’s or Rosenbauer’s books along. Practice makes perfect, unless you don’t practice.

So let’s set up for a day on the stream. You have your cellular ‘phone in a baggie inside a baggie, so it’s submersible but it’s almost impossible to hear, or talk to, anybody, but you have your earbuds, that are 2-way radios so you can keep in touch with loved ones and friends. True, you’ll always leave some vital piece of stuff back in the car, or forget to bring it, at all, but that’s just forgetful you. Nowadays, your local electronics pusher is just as necessary as a good flyshop! You’re hooked up to “X,” which used to be Twitter – a Twitter blast was a “tweet”; so what’s an X blast? A “Xelon?” A “Musket?” Trillionaires. Gotta love ‘em.

But there it is, on your wrist -- the Smartypants watch. Capable of a huge number of functions, some of which are useful, it has “apps,” that allow it to instruct, monitor, advise, and correct you onstream. How?

1. First, there’s the Double Haul app, which requires two watches, one per arm, thus doubling the price, but think of the money you save on lessons!. The DH app has a tazer on each wrist, to shock you when your timing is off. Just don’t submerge both watches at the same time – lethal shocks hurt!
2. Then, we have the Fly Selector app. Its best feature is that you can tell it the date, time of day, water level, light level, stream flow, water temperature and clarity, and it’ll choose your fly for you. Its worst feature is that you have to inventory and program in every fly you have, which can consume monthsworth of winter’s harshest weather, and make you realize just how many flies you have that you’ve never used.
3. There’s the “I’ve Flopped Down And Can’t Get Up” app, which, for only \$49.95 a month will send out an alert to some bozo in Thailand, who, within that day, will send an old lady to dredge you out of trouble. If you haven’t drowned, or been rescued already by laughing strangers.
4. You can take measurements on any fish you might accidentally catch: simply scan the Smartypants watch over the fish, trying not to let the fish wriggle too much, and not only does the watch know the species, but the length, girth, and weight of the fish. Unfortunately, the app wizards haven’t figured out how to get this information to you, but at least, the watch knows. Innovation, anybody?
5. The watch can tell you when you’ve been out on the water long enough, through a combination of heartbeat, breathing rate, blood sugar levels, oxygen consumption, cursing rate and intensity and frequency, and when the watch flashes red, get out and go home. Oh, as a bonus, the watch has an old-fashioned dial for telling time.

Who said technology is wasted on us Oldies? Bah!, humbug! Bob K

* “Big Ben” is the nickname for the Great Bell of the Great Clock of Westminster – it ain’t a clock at all!

Another copy of an early RCFF newsletter. This one from November 1980.

Tapers, Tippetts & Tales

Red Cedar Fly Fishers

NOVEMBER 1980

Ed: Daniel E. Cogan

NEXT MEETING: November 11 at 7:30 pm. Socialize and tie flies until the business meeting starts at 8:00 pm. Please bring your FFF membership card so we can get the expiration date for the club records.

Eric Sharp will present the program on stoneflies, based upon the new book, Stoneflies by Swisher, Richards and Arbona.

SHIRTS AND JACKETS: The club will be ordering dark green shirts and jackets which will be printed with: Red Cedar Fly Fishers. The shirt is a short sleeve coach's shirt with collar, 50% polyester and 50% cotton. Cost will run approximately \$7-\$9.00 with lettering. The jackets are 100% nylon, uncoated with snap front, and two slash pockets in the front. They will be available for either \$12-\$14.00 unlined or \$16-\$18.00 for the lined version. Call John Wylie at 252-4441 or place your order at the next meeting.

NEW MEMBER: Welcome to our latest member Jim Neal. Add his name and address to your membership roster:

Jim Neal
1234 Main St
12345

MSU MUSEUM PROJECT: The RCFF may have the opportunity to catalog and construct displays for fly fishing items held by the MSU Museum. This is one of only three serious collections of fly fishing items in the nation. Call Tony Petrella at 495-1111 if you might be interested in helping out with this project.

DECEMBER RAFFLE: Plans are shaping up for the Christmas potluck dinner and raffle. Dr. Dick Pomeroy has agreed to entertain us with a slide show of his recent fishing trip to Alaska.

FISHING REPORTS: Rusty Gates has agreed to supply us with up-to-date fishing information on the Au Sable. Come fishing weather, we will try to call him immediately before the newsletter is printed to provide some useful fishing information.

Another Early Newsletter Continued

By: Mark Johnson

FOR SALE: Call Dick Howe at 313-487-1111 if you are interested in purchasing any of the following:

8'6" 8 wt Orvis graphite - POWERHOUSE

7' 5 wt Orvis graphite - OTTER

In addition, Dick is selling all of his fly tying equipment. He has indicated that he will consider selling the equipment and supplies item by item rather than as one lot.

HARRY'S HANDY HINTS: When tying streamers allow all of the body materials to extend along the hook shank and act as an underbody. When the materials are then overwound there will be a smooth base without all those bumps we sometimes have.

For those who have old copies of "Fly Fisherman Magazine" refer to Poul Jorgenson's article in the Midseason, 1976 issue, Volume 7 Number 6, on tying the Rusty Rat.

For example, when tying a simple tinsel body streamer, tie in the tail material (yarn, for instance) at the eye of the hook. Then wind the tying thread in close winds, with no gaps, back over the yarn to the hook bend. Then tie in the tinsel, with the short end extending back to the eye of the hook. Bring the tying thread back to the eye, again in close winds. Now, an even base has been prepared to wind the body.

If you are using mylar tinsel, pull it tight enough to stretch it slightly and overlap each wind. The mylar will lay flat on the hook without bumps.

CALENDAR

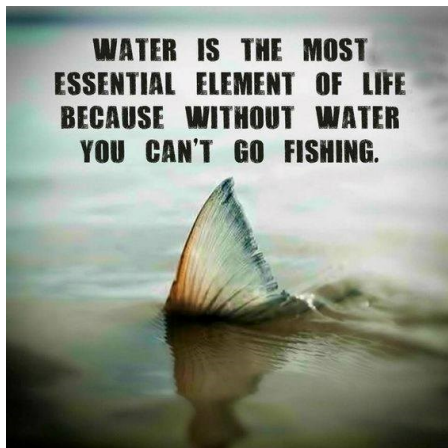
November 11, 1980	RCFF monthly meeting
December 9, 1980	Christmas potluck dinner and raffle
June 26-28, 1981	Great Lakes Sub-Council Conclave, Grayling, Michigan

Invasive Carp

By: Mark Johnson

The link below is an article on Invasive Carp you may be interested in.

<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2023/09/02/groups-target-invasive-carp-with-1-1b-project-at-key-lakes-chokepoint/70737183007/>



Newsletter Articles Requested

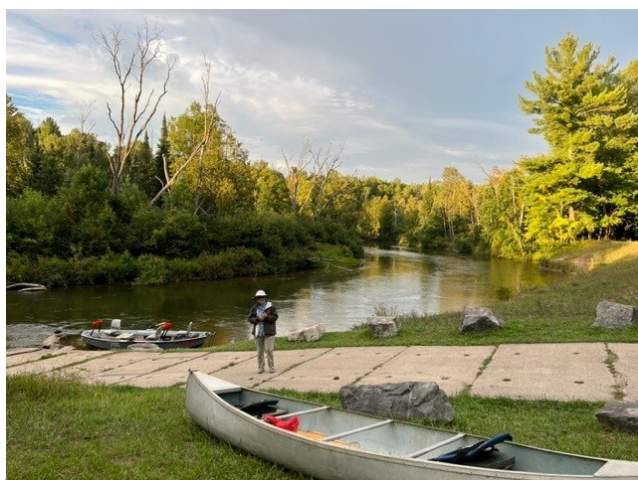
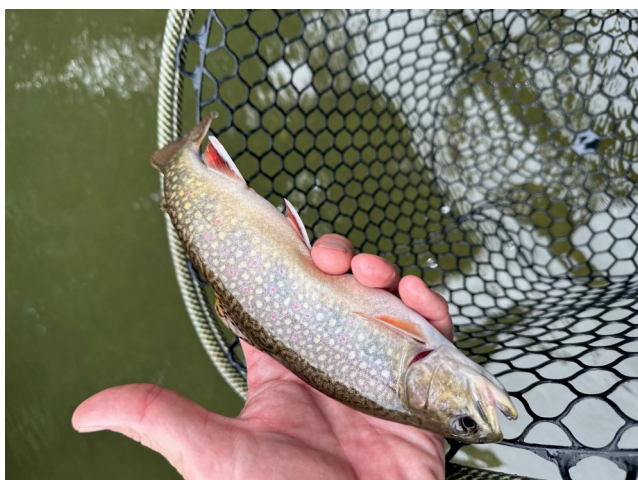
By: Mark Johnson

I am looking for additional articles for the newsletter. We are fortunate to have Bob Kren submit a monthly article for us but I struggle to come up with other articles on my own. I think it comes down to two things for me. First, a time crunch each month to get the newsletter done and out to you and Secondly, I am simply not that creative a writer. So, I am making an appeal for others to submit something, it doesn't have to be every month and it can be short or long. It can be about a fishing trip you took, a review of a rod, reel or other equipment, anything fly tying related, conservation related, just about anything you can think of in the way of fly fishing. Just send it to me in an email or as a Word document. Both of those I can copy and paste readily into Publisher for the newsletter. I appreciate your consideration.

Member's Photos

By: Mark Johnson

A few pictures below from members recent fishing expeditions. If you have some photos, send them to the Newsletter Editor and I will put them in the Newsletter for others to see.



**RED CEDAR FLY
FISHERS**

P.O. Box 129
Okemos, MI 48805



Refrigerator Reminders

October

10th: RCFF Monthly Meeting, 6:30 P.M. At Coral Gables in East Lansing in the back Banquet Room.

November

14th: RCFF Monthly Meeting, 6:30 P.M. At Coral Gables in East Lansing in the back Banquet Room.