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Tippets, Tapers & Tales

February 1, 2024

President's Message

It is a busy time right now with the club. We have many things going on and I will try to highlight each one. Our Sunday tying nights are in full swing. Our next one is this Sunday, the 4th. See details inside. This newsletter is coming out a little early to promote this. On the 5th and the 12th this month we will be holding beginning fly tying classes at the Grand Ledge Public Library. Both classes are already full! Thanks to the club members that signed up to help with this. It should be a good time. Our normal in person club meeting at Coral Gables in East Lansing will be on the 13th. See details inside for that. Remember, we have our Squares raffle going on at the meetings with prizes of a Spey Rod, Fly Reel and a Dozen Steelhead/Spey flies. Be sure to get your squares at \$5 each at the meeting. This spring we will be having another online auction fundraiser. More details on that as it gets closer. Keep an eye on your email, our Facebook page and our website for details on all club activities. Wait a minute, did I just say website? That's right, after going some time without a website we have a new website up and running thanks to the efforts of Dr. J. See the article inside for more details and the website address.

See you at the February meeting.

Mark



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

February's Presentation

By: Mark Johnson

For our February presentation Todd White will be joining us by Zoom to tie some early season trout dry flies that can be modified for hatches all season long. Todd is an excellent fly tyer and we have had him tie for us before. This should be an excellent program. Below are the flies and recipes Todd will tie for us that night in case you want to get materials ahead of time to tie along with the presentation.

Borcher's Blue-Wing

Standard dry fly hook size #16

Thread: Olive/Lt. Olive 8/0

Tail: Med. Dun saddle hackle fibers or mayfly tails/microfibetts

Body: Olive/Lt. Olive dyed pheasant tail

Post: White Poly/McFlylon

Hackle: Med. Dun saddle/neck sized #14

Snowshoe Emerger

Standard dry fly hook size #16

Thread: Veevus GSP 30 denier

Tail/shuck: UV Tan Ice dub

Body: Tan superfine dubbing

Wing/Head: Med Dun dyed Snowshoe rabbits foot

Early Stone Skunk

Standard dry fly hook size #12

Thread: Black 6/0

Tail: White Poly/McFlylon

Body: Black Poly yarn

Legs: Black med. round rubber

Wing/Head: Natural Whitetail Body Hair

RCFF Spring Online Auction

By: Mark Johnson

We will be having another online Spring Fundraising auction coming up in April or early May same as last year. We are looking for donations of all sorts of new or gently used flyfishing gear or other items to put in the auction. We do have some items left from last year and several fly rods and reels of Terry's to put in there but can always use other items. Any gift certificates for hotel stays, float trips or retail stores make great items as they always seem to be desirable and they are easy to transfer to the auction winners by mail. Please consider donating something as the online auction is our largest fundraiser of the year for our Terry Greiner Memorial MSU Fisheries Grant and to support our Conservation and Education programs. You may bring your items to donate to a club meeting or contact a board member to arrange pickup. I will be starting to work on the auction page in March with the setup, photographing and listing of items so get your donations in as soon as possible.

The Talk

By Bob Kren, husband, father (two girls), RCFer, and Mr. Flyfisherpersonguy

Remember “The Talk?” -- father and son, or mother and daughter, away from everybody else, sitting down to a long-standing ritual involving questions that were beginning to stir in a twelve-year-old boy’s, or girl’s, mind, and elsewhere. The other juveniles had already started rumors, spreading ignorance and lurid lies, spiced by “dirty” jokes that most listeners, and the tellers themselves, didn’t quite understand. But we always laughed, and repeated those jokes as if we knew what they were all about. Let’s reconstruct one of these father-son encounters, involving a sweaty-palmed father and his pubescent son, a sort of paean to the teenage brain.

Dad: Well, Son, it’s high time we talked things over about, um, well, you know . . .

Son: Sure, Dad. What do you need to know?

Dad: That’s an old joke, Son. This is about the, um, the birds and the bees.

Son: You mean like the feathers you use to make the insect-imitating flies you use for flyfishing?

Dad: Whew! I didn’t imagine that you noticed, and I didn’t know how to bring flyfishing up.

Son: Dad, even the kids on the schoolyard are talking about flyfishing. The currentest joke is “Why did the fly-fisher cross the Interstate?” “To get his fly out of a tree!”

Dad: That’s a good one! Son, you probably have a twisted view of what’s going on when somebody suddenly breaks out talking about a good time on the river, and the hatches and the steamers and the mating runs. But they never seem to talk about the trouble you can get into if your curiosity leads to “unprotected flyfishing.”

Son: What’s that, Dad?

Dad: There’s a lot of things you can do that will be dangerous, like not knowing the stream where you’re flyfishing, or getting so excited that you forget what can happen if you’re not careful.

Son: Isn’t that true no matter what you’re doing, like that time I sat next to Lynn Dovico at the movies and . . .

Dad: Enough of that, Son! La la La la, can’t hear you! Flyfishing takes you away from those thoughts that are best left behind, or at least until you get to be thirty or so.

Son: “Behind” makes me think of Lynn. But I wonder -- what kind of dangers can flyfishing expose you to? Aren’t you just standing in the water, or in a boat, waving a rod, and praying?

Dad: Only in a movie with Brad Pitt. You can forget the idea that a film crew will show up and make you into a star of the silver screen, or that a UAP will swoop down and take you away. Nice mustache, by the way.

Son: How else am I going to get to be famous, and the object of desire of beautiful women, especially Lynn?

Dad: Whoa!, Son! Let’s get some focus, here. Flyfishing is misunderstood, and imagined to be costly and demanding and hard to learn and do, all of which is true. But it has its own brand of delight, sheer ecstasy, until a game warden arrives, and you’ve broken some obscure law meant for ordinary mortals and not for you.

Son: “Ordinary mortals.” Just what kind of people are flyfishers, Dad?

Dad: All kinds, all colors, men and women, all ages, some skilled and some not, why there’s even high-school English teachers fishing alongside of basketball coaches!

Son: That’s hard to grasp, Dad. Are you saying that flyfishing levels the socioeconomically-defined classes?

Dad: Have you been listening to Ted Talks, Son?

Son: Never, Dad! But there are influencers out there showing videos about things like funny cats, and rude bodily noises imitating Beethoven’s 5th, and flyfishing! I want to buy all the stuff they say I need, and that I can’t enjoy the sport without, like gold-plated nippers and graphite wading shorts. Influencers never lie.

Dad: They lie no more than presidential candidates do, Son. Truth be told, as excited as you may be to have “stuff,” as we call our equipment, you can have a perfectly good time flyfishing with only some basic things.

Son: Sort of like dating a plain girl, eh, Dad? (winks, here)

Dad: Back to reality, Son. A flyrod, a reel to store line, a line to store on a reel, some fine transparent string called “monofilament,” a couple of flies, cheap nippers, maybe something to cover your legs in cold water, and, most importantly, the right clothes so you can be comfortable in all sorts of weather conditions: “There isn’t bad weather, only bad choices of how to dress.” Oh, yeah, and terrorist spray in case you’re attacked by a terrorist.

Son: What about shark repellent? Lots of sharks out there!

Dad: We live in Iowa, Son. The only sharks we see are politicians, and recruiters for Trout Unlimited and the Federation of Fly Flingers, International. Well, I’m really glad we had this little talk.

Son: Me too, Dad. Can I borrow your MasterCard, just for a while? (fade to dark) Bob K

Tie-A-Thon

By: Mark Johnson

Now that winter has fully arrived many of us have started tying and filling those fly boxes for next spring. Consider taking a break from tying your own flies and tie up 100 flies to send to the Tie-A-Thon. Each year they donate flies to a different worthy organization. Below is a list of the organizations that will be receiving flies this year as well as a chart showing the flies they are requesting. For more information and where to send your flies visit: [Tie A Thon](#)

It is officially time to start tying flies for Tie-A-Thon 2024! This year, Tie-A-Thon flies will be distributed to three non-profit organizations: Idaho 2Fly, Casting for Recovery - National, and The Mayfly Project.

Idaho 2 Fly (<https://www.idaho2fly.org/>) is a group that offers retreats and workshops in Idaho for men with cancer. As many of you know, Casting for Recovery

(<https://castingforrecovery.org/>) offers retreats nationwide for women recovering from breast cancer. The Mayfly Project mentors foster children through fly fishing

(<https://themayflyproject.com/>) and is now held in over 50 locations.

Pick a pattern, tie 100 and donate	
Fly Patterns	Hook Size
Adams	18 - 14
Beetles	18 - 14
Blue Winged Olives	22 - 18
Clouser Minnows	8 - 4
Copper John	18 - 12
Chironomid	20 - 14
Elk Hair Caddis	18 - 14
Foam Spiders	18 - 12
Griffith Gnats	22 - 20
Hare's Ear Nymph	16 - 12
Hoppers / Chubby Chernobyl	14 - 10
Beadhead Eggs (trout)	14 - 12
Pat's Rubber Legs	12 - 6
Pheasant Tail	18 - 14
Poppers (Blue Gill & Bass)	14 - 6
Soft Hackles	16 - 14
Sow Bugs	18 - 14
Squirmy Worms / San Juan Worms	14 - 10
Wooly Buggers	12 - 8



RCFF Website

By: Mark Johnson

As you all are aware, the Red Cedar Fly Fishers has been without a website for awhile. The board last fall acquired a new domain name for the website and at the beginning of this year, Mark Johnston has been diligently working on making our new website come to life. Dr. J has done a fabulous job in putting it together. It is still a work in progress but the board thought it was time to show it off a little to club members. Check out the link below to get a look at the new RCFF website.

redcedarflyfishers.com

Let myself or Dr J know if there is something else you think we should add or change on the site. Also let us know if there is anything you think we should add that would keep people coming back to the site for updates. We would like to have your opinions on what we can do to continually improve the site.

Sunday Fly Tying

By: Mark Johnson

Just a reminder that our winter Sunday Night Fly Tying gatherings are in full swing. Those of us that have been attending have been having a fun time. Our next one is scheduled for Sunday, February 4th from 6-8pm at the Bluegill Grill in Haslett. Stop by and join us for the evening. If you don't tie, you can still come by and visit with everyone for awhile.

Hesse Earl Youth Fishing Program

By: Mark Johnson

I recently got the email below from Mark Stephens requesting donations for the Hesse Earl Youth Fishing Program. Many of you are familiar with this program and have donated and volunteered in the past. They are looking for donations to help with this years program. You can donate at the link below provided by Mark. For those not familiar with the program, the second link below shows a video of the program.

We are looking to raise funds for a program we have been doing for about 12 years. It is called the Hesse Earl Youth Fishing Program. Each year we give a free program to approximately 180 kids over the first 3 Saturdays of May in the mid-Michigan area. Along with education from wonderful volunteers/partners, kids will receive an incredible rod/reel combo, a loaded (really loaded) tackle box, and an invite to 3 June family experiences to learn to clean and cook their catch. Here is the link to donate.

https://commerce.cashnet.com/msu_3804?&itemcode=3804-HESSE

Thanks from the kids and families. Here is a link to a video about the program when it was called the Dr. Bill Earl Youth Fishing Program. https://youtu.be/EsHRzry6Y3I?si=dFS6_ltl_zvLdIII

**RED CEDAR FLY
FISHERS**

P.O. Box 129
Okemos, MI 48805

www.redcedarflyfishers.com



Had a member send me this photo,
Looks like it says, Upper Peninsula,
Lower Peninsula, and Winter Peninsula
for Florida, LOL



Refrigerator Reminders

February

4th: Sunday Night Fly Tying at the Bluegill Grill in Haslett from 6-8pm. We meet in the back room of the restaurant.

13th: RCFF Monthly Meeting, 6:30 P.M. At Coral Gables in East Lansing.

This month's meeting will take place in the Sun Room in the front of the restaurant.

March

12th: RCFF Monthly Meeting, 6:30 P.M. At Coral Gables in East Lansing.

This month's meeting will take place in the Sun Room in the front of the restaurant.