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Tippets, Tapers & Tales

March 3, 2023

President's Message

Hopefully now spring is just around the corner, although as I write this we are suppose to get a lot of snow today. Milder temperatures in the forecast should melt that snow and it won't be long that many of us will be hitting the rivers for steelhead if you haven't already. Our March meeting will be again in person at Coral Gables in East Lansing and we will have our grant winner from last spring, Kandace Griffin back to give us an update on her Seal Lamprey work project from last summer. It should be an interesting meeting to see what updates she has from her research.

We will have a large amount of fly tying materials at the March meeting that belonged to Terry Greiner. Like last month, some items may be priced and others just requesting a donation to the club for what you pick out and can use. There is a lot of material here so plan on attending so you can see what is available. The board discussed at it's recent board meeting our online auction fundraiser this spring. We are planning on having this sometime in April if we can get all the items photographed and listed on the site by then. We will have several of Terry's fly fishing belongings in the auction including several fly rods and reels but are also looking for other items for the auction. If you have items you would like to donate, please bring them to the March meeting or contact me and I will arrange to get them from you.

Last years Grant winner, Kandace Griffin was scheduled to present an update on her research project for us at the meeting but she emailed me and might have a conflict that night. I am waiting to here for sure but we have a possible backup speaker to check with if she can't make it.

Hope to see everyone at the 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

RCFF Fly Tying Classes

By: Mark Johnson

Just thought I would give a summary of our recent fly tying classes we held at the Grand Ledge Public Library. We held beginning fly tying classes at the library on February 6th and the 13th and had a total of 15 people attending those classes. We were able to go through several flies and the instruction seemed well received by those attending. I want to thank club members, Bob Ceru, Dennis O'Brien, Joe Francis, John Ross, Mike Grinwis for attending and helping out with the class and Bob Bawden who took the time to put together a 7 page handout of fly tying information that we gave to each person attending. It went very well and we have been asked by the library to put on the same class again next winter. Later in February, Dennis O'Brien and myself put on another fly tying class at the Vernon District Library. In the two nights of class we had a total of 7 people attending who enjoyed learning to tie several flies. In both locations we had several children that attended the class.

Local Fly Fishing Opportunities

By: Mark Johnson

I have had a few requests lately from members asking about local Mid-Michigan areas to fly fish so I thought I would try to supply a little input from other members that I know do fish locally. This will be somewhat of a summary of comments from members about some of their local areas to try. I would like to thank the following members for their input in helping with this article. Bob Ceru, Harry Barnes, Bonnie Barnes, Don Sawyer, John Ross and Dave Hovis all contributed some information to this article.

Before I start, I would like to mention that there is a great local fishing access map as a resource for all of you to use. It was the one that The Red Cedar Fly Fishers donated money to a few years back to help print. There are copies of it still around, but I do have a PDF file of the map if anyone would like to have it. It is a rather larger file, 10-12 megabytes I believe, so I will not attach it to the email with the newsletter as it may be too large to go into some email servers. If you would like a copy of it, please send an email request to me (Where this newsletter was sent from) and I will send it back to you. I hope some of the comments below help you in your search for new places to fish.

-I have always been told that the upper Shiawassee is still some of the best smallmouth fishing waters in the area. I know that Schultz outfitters uses that stretch for some guided smallmouth bass fishing.

I was talking to the guys from Schultz outfitters at the last fly fishing expo and they told me about how before the dams were demolished; the Shiawassee used to do "kill" tournaments because there were so many smallmouth in the river.

I have also been told that there are some nice pike and carp in the river as well. The local schools do release salmon in the river somewhere north of Owosso. The US Fish and Wildlife Service are also releasing sturgeon in the Shiawassee River in the same area they release the salmon.

Another river in the area I've heard great things about is the Flint River. I've heard good things about the northern section in the flushing area.

Local Fly Fishing Opportunities Continued

-I used to fish the Flat River near Smyrna for smallmouth. I tried to find the same location last year but couldn't find it. It was fairly low water, and a spruce fly was deadly. I also fished the Flat near Whites covered bridge. I noticed on the map that there's a boat launch now in that area. I've been told several times that the Grand River in the Portland state game area is excellent. I know I went there a few times, but nothing really stands out now. Bonnie and I float tube Crandall Lake on M-50 near Charlotte. It's supposed to be catch and release fishing, but either the fish are awfully slow growing, or they've not being released. The nice part is there are no motors, not many people, and there are some nice bluegills.

-I fish in the Grand River most of the time. I have a couple areas near Eaton Rapids that are good access for boat or kayak anglers. Primarily smallmouth and pike. I like white, or white with red or chartreuse, streamer type patterns. Topwater's also work well if the water is warm enough. For good wade fishing there are some spots near Holt and Dimondale. The bridges on Waverly south of Holt Road, and M-99 south of I-96 have good wadable water that can produce some nice smallmouth fishing. West of Lansing all the way to Ionia the Grand River has good wade fishing also. Lots of areas to access and most of it can be waded if the water is at normal summer flows. I like to fish for Pike near Laingsburg on the Looking Glass. Access is challenging though because of a lack of public land. Babcock Rd has a boat/kayak launch for small craft. Not very wadable. It gets really weedy as summer progresses, but if you want to fight your way through the weeds and go upstream a ways it can produce good fish when they feel like biting. (Pike can be very moody). There are places further downstream towards Dewitt and west toward Portland where you can get in and wade. The Looking Glass has generally smaller fish than the Grand, but if you find a deeper hole you may get a decent one or two.

- Near here, Thornapple Lake southeast of Grand Rapids and Grand River near Dimondale. Need a boat for transportation, some wading. Also, Terry Greiner when he was younger would wade the Grand River a mile above the access below Charlotte Hwy bridge for Smallmouth. The road escapes me ---Erdman I think but Terry found a road access upstream from the launch.

-Fitzgerald Park in Grand Ledge below the dam there can provide some fly fishing opportunities. Also, parts of the Looking Glass River East and West of DeWitt I have fished in the past with a mixed bag of species there. Also, have fished at Park Lake in Bath several times. It has a good population of Large-mouth Bass to target as well as smaller bluegills. This lake gets weedy later in the summer and is not suitable for wading to get to the better areas which are farther across the lake from the boat launch there. A float tube or kayak is advisable.

Below is a listing of flies suggested by those contributing to this article:

Poppers
Deer Hair Bass Bug
Clouser Minnow
Feenstra Minnie Craw
Stealth Bomber
Mrs. Packman
Girdle Bug
Wooly Bugger
Gartside Gurgler
Murdich Minnow
Pine Squirrel leach.
Gartside Sparrow
Bloody Black dubbing leech



The fly above was given to Dave Hovis and is supposed to be a great fly for the Shiawassee River. Hard to tell in the picture but the body is a Black and Copper Cactus Chenille or Estaz type wrap.

Yellowstone Angler's Basecamp **By: Mark Johnson**

Tim Guilfoile of the Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers sent me the two links below. If anyone would be interested in attending the Yellowstone Angler's Basecamp this summer check out these two links and contact Tim with any other questions. Terry was planning on attending this with Tim last summer before he passed away.

Check it out.

<https://www.anglersbasecamp.org/>

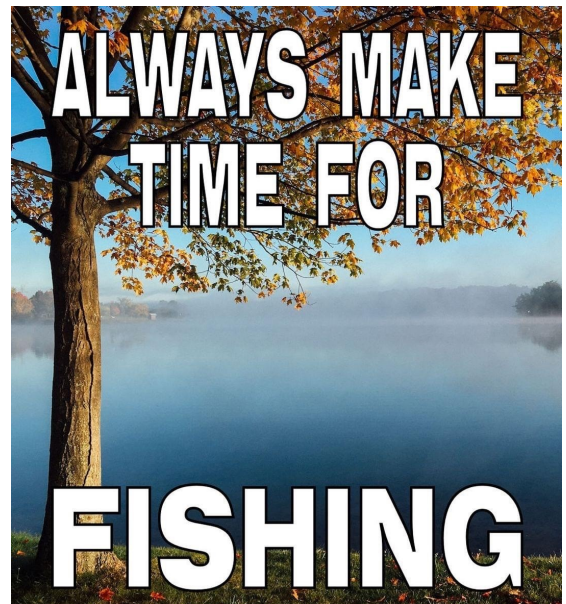
Here is a photo album:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/uxAd9aapFeGGHCjF9>

Tim Guilfoile

tim@nkff.org

<https://nkff.org/>



Hesse-Earl Youth Fishing Program By: Mark Johnson

I wanted to let the members know that the Red Cedar Fly Fishers received a letter from the Hesse-Earl Youth Fishing Program recently asking for a donation to support their program again this year. The Board took an email vote to approve sending in a \$250.00 donation again to this worthwhile program. I mention this also as John Hesse is going to let me know this spring about their volunteer needs for the May workshops so be watching this newsletter or your email for requests for volunteers again for this program. Our members have always been quite generous of their time in helping with this event.



Lying 101

By: Bob Kren

Lying 101, Comments Overheard and Interpreted While Indulging in the Genteel Sport by Bob (always the diplomat) Kren, RCFer and Mr. Flyfishersonguy

What's said: "That's one nice set of waders."

What's meant: "You're gonna rip 'em, the way you thrash around."

What's said: "I don't usually see anybody on the water this early, at the most beautiful time of the day."

What's meant: "I wouldn't want others to see me, either. Why do you think I'm out here at this ungodly hour?"

What's said: "Wow!, you've got such a youthful glow."

What's meant: "I didn't think a person your age could have acne."

What's said: "That rod casts like bamboo."

What's meant: "... like a worm-drowner's cane pole."

Alternatively: "... if you were holding the bamboo rod by its tip."

Alternatively: "... half-inch rebar."

What's said: "You could make a living as a guide."

What's not said: "... dog."

Alternatively: "... to the subway system of Honolulu."

What's said: "Great location for your cabin, right here on the riverbank."

What's unsaid: "Too bad the hatches are all in the kitchen."

Alternatively: "The floors are kind of damp. Maybe a little too charmingly close to the water?"

What's said: "Your fishing companion sure has good form."

What's meant: "How'd a geezer like you wind up with a Victoria's Secret model? You must be very rich!"

What's said: "Glorious view."

What's meant: "The white foam floating in the water looks suspicious, so it's best to focus on the distance."

What's said: "Your wading boots look really comfortable!"

What's meant: "Those can't be Earth Boots, can they? Negative heels went out with the 70's."

Alternatively: "It's so brave of you to turn your back on current trends and embrace orthopedic sandals."

What's said: "I think it's great the way you've followed your dreams!"

What's meant: "A hugely expensive rod ain't going to heal your casting cluelessness."

What's said: "Aw, your man cave (person cave?) is so compact!"

What's unsaid: "I can't believe you share such a small space with so many vermin."

What's often said to me: "I can't believe you wrote this!"

What's meant about me: "You're never funny like this in person."

What's said: "Wow!, you're as strong and agile as somebody half your age!"

What's unsaid: "... if that person is three hundred years old."

What's said: "Gosh, you really do love dogs!"

What's meant: "Get your mutt out of my water!"

Alternatively: "Can you get it to stop humping my new waders?!"

What's said: "I can't believe you're retired."

What's meant: "I can't believe you're still alive."

What's said: "Your outfit looks so cozy!"

What's meant: "You look like a walking area rug from Ikea."

Alternatively: "Hawaiian-print shirts might count as camo in Maui, but not on the Manistee."

What's said: "Wow, my dog really likes you!"

What's meant: "My dog thinks you smell like week-old Pup-Peroni®."

What's said: "You've really lost weight? You look amazing!"

What's meant: "I've heard about your irritable-bowel syndrome."

What's said: "Sure you can wade out there in front of me. Be my guest."

What's meant: "You look and act like a heavily-armed fugitive from a street gang. Just keep moving."

What's said: "Of course we can split the expenses."

What's unsaid: "... s long as you still haven't mastered third-grade arithmetic."

What's said: "I've never seen anybody tie a fly like that."

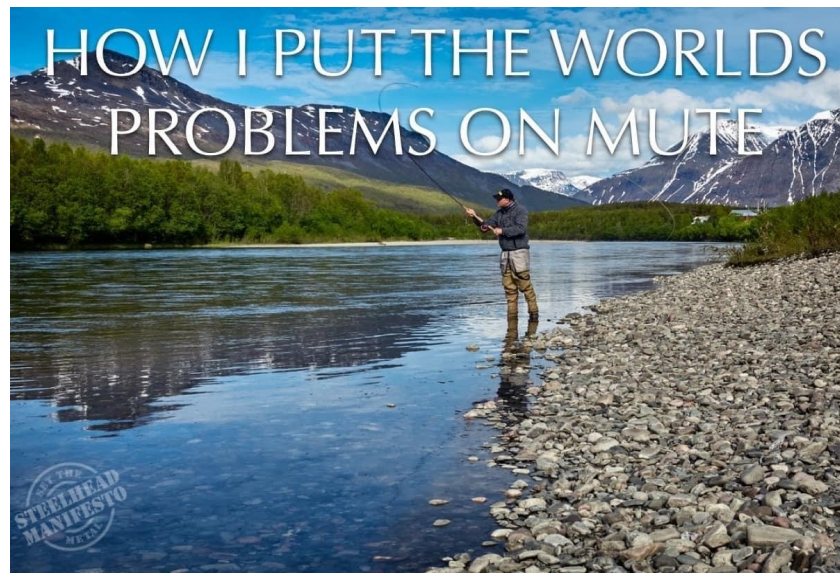
What's meant: "Sewing thread isn't meant to be used on flies, using a sewing-machine bobbin."

Feel free to say anything that you want, so long as you know the true meaning, Fellow Flyfishers. Bob K

**RED CEDAR FLY
FISHERS**

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Refrigerator Reminders

March

5th: Sunday Fly Tying-Bluegill
Grill, Haslett 6-8pm

11-12th: Midwest Fly Fishing
Expo. See
www.midwestflyfishingexpo.com
for more information

14th: RCFF Club Meeting at
Coral Gables in East Lansing
at 6:30pm.

19th: Sunday Fly Tying-Bluegill
Grill, Haslett 6-8pm

April

11th: RCFF Club Meeting at
Coral Gables in East Lansing
at 6:30pm.