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Tippets, Tapers & Tales

March 4, 2024

President's Message

I hope everyone is doing well. With these warmer temperatures I am sure many are getting the itch to get out and do some fishing if you haven't already. Speaking of fishing, don't forget to get your new Michigan fishing license before April 1st.

Sorry for the last minute cancellation of our in person meeting in February. We did have a great fly tying Zoom presentation by Todd White. We should be all set for our in-person March meeting at Coral Gables with club member Mike Seremijan doing a Smallmouth presentation for us. Remember we still have our board of "Squares" for our Spey Rod raffle and we will have a club raffle also that night. We have meetings planned right up through to our June picnic so it looks to be a busy spring of great meetings and activities.

Hope to see you at the March in-person 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

March's Presentation

By: Mark Johnson

Our March meeting will be in person at Coral Gables in East Lansing in the front Sun Room. We will have Red Cedar Fly Fishers member Mike Seremijian there in person to do a presentation for us on Smallmouth Bass fishing on the Shiawassee River. This will also be broadcast on Zoom for our remote viewers.

Spring Online Auction

By: Mark Johnson

We will be having another online Spring Fundraising auction coming up in April same as last year. 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. I have started photographing the items that we have in house already for the auction and by just after the March meeting will start actual work on the auction site to get the items uploaded and described for the auction. So let's make the March meeting the deadline to get items in for the auction. Thanks for your support.



Joke of the Month

By: Mark Johnson

Many of you remember the many jokes and one liners that Terry Greiner used to tell all of us. What many don't know is that he had these written down and kept adding to them. A packet of his jokes were handed out at his Memorial Service. A club member thought we should print some from time to time. Here are a couple he had written down.

My neighbor rang my doorbell at 3:00am! Can you believe it? Luckily I was still up playing my drums.

It's weird being the same age as old people.

A thief broke into my house last night. He started searching for money so I got up and searched with him.

Spring Is In The Air

by Larry Gallegos



We fly fishermen are a hardy bunch. It's still technically winter and there's snow on the ground in the high country but that hasn't dampened our enthusiasm. A few warm days and our minds turn to perfect casts and sudden, splashy takes.

Sure, I know plenty of guys who fish all through the winter. I've done a little of that myself. The thing that stops me isn't the cold, it's the commute. Driving in the mountains in the winter, with slick roads and bumper-to-bumper ski traffic, is not my idea of a good time. Nope, I'm not afraid to admit that I'm a fair-weather angler.

But still, I'm itching to get out there and want to do something to keep my head in the game. Right now, I'm spending time preparing for the coming fishing season. Here are the projects I've laid out for the coming days.

Cleaning up: Let's be honest, the water in trout streams and lakes isn't really "crystal clear." It's loaded with silt, algae, didymo and who knows what other stuff. Naturally, our fishing gear picks up this dirt, mud, sand and other debris and now is a good time to give it a good cleaning. I inspect my rods for chips and clean each section, paying attention to the guides and ferrules. I rub paraffin on the male ferrules, as that wax helps hold the rod sections together and greatly reduces the chance that those sections will lock up and be nearly impossible to separate at the end of the day. I also take off my reels, then separate the spool and frame and clean them thoroughly. A little sand or grit can really gum up precision-machined components. Finally, I inspect my fly lines for cracking and use a line cleaner/conditioner, like those made by Loon, Scientific Anglers or Rio, to clean, restore and lubricate them. Fly lines are expensive and deserve a little love.

Fly Boxes: My fly boxes have a pretty tough life, getting jostled around in the pack and rubbing against all my other tools and supplies. Hinges wear out, clear covers get scuffed-up and latches break or get loose. Transferring flies from old worn boxes into new ones gives me the opportunity to replace beat-up flies with perfect examples. It's also a great time to reorganize and re-prioritize my flies. I generally end up with a box of spaghetti and meatballs (aka, worms and eggs), a couple boxes of beadheads and a couple boxes of unweighted nymphs like RS2s and Jujubees. Add a few more boxes of streamers and dry flies and you have a lot of work to do. But spending a couple hours organizing fly boxes is well worth the effort as having the right fly readily at hand will save you precious minutes on the river bank.

I know this sounds like a lot of fly boxes but they needn't take up much room. A couple of 8-compartment Super Slim magnetic fly boxes will hold dozens of small nymphs and dries and one Tacky box will easily hold a day's supply of larger stuff like hoppers and leeches. I sometimes even take additional boxes that I leave in my car to re-supply the ones I take on the water. You can never have too many flies.

Fly Tying: Finally, once my fly boxes are in order, I can see where I have gaps. Maybe I'm short of Parachute Adams, Perdignons and Prince Nymphs. Yippee, now I have an excuse to tie some up. Or, by discarding flies that didn't produce last year, I've made room for (e.g.) the new Micro Mop flies I tied up. Also, some of the flies I tied a few years ago might not measure up to current fly tying standards. I can now replace them with new and improved examples.

Nothing gets me in the mood for fishing more than tying up some game-changer fly, especially if it's one I just dreamed up. Which gives me an idea: What if I combined the very best features from a couple of traditional flies into one brand-new fly? I bet nobody has ever thought of doing that!

Stay tuned for the latest product from Larry's Frankenfly Workshop.

Larry D. Gallegos • relaw@msn.com
(I don't believe in clever taglines)

Thanks to author Larry D. Gallegos and the Desert Fly Casters for the above article.

How to be a Flyfishing Guru -- a Lecture and Lesson*

By Bob Kren, RCFFer, TikTokTacky Sensation, and Mr. Flyfisherpersonguy

(Imagine a stage, barely-lit, with a single spotlight, in the beam of which struts an Elvis-like icon, flashing his teeth and waving. He bows, and raises his arms.)

Welcome to “So You Want to be a Guru.” How’ya doing? Thanks for the applause! Guring ain’t easy, let me tell you, but you know that or you wouldn’t be here, paying me to teach you how to be like me! I wasn’t always this confident and successful, but by observing all those self-help videos on Y’all Tube and Falsebook, I’ve become one of the highest-paid overnight sensations in the self-help industry. I’m the motivational speaker who can create my own clones, a set of motispeaks – as we call ourselves – who can rouse folks with a frenzy of enthusiasm, a volcano of verbiage, a tornado of, well, you get the idea. And isn’t that why you’re all paying me to be here?

Each of us has a dreamlife, as distant as the fantasies of childhood or old age, a life where you can create your own future before somebody else does it for you! That’s the promise you have to sell! Plus t-shirts.

I’ve been ordinary, before my transformation to the celebrity you see up here. No radioactive spider bites, no beaming up to alien spaceships, no epiphanies, just the right words at the right time, like it’ll be for you, right now! Say “Hail Me, I’m the Best!” Let’s get on with the transformation that you paid for!

Here’s your first lesson before you unleash you on the world: **PROWL THE STAGE!** Look at me, how I fondle the mic, how I point at you! and you! and you! Make you feel special? That’s what **YOU** have to do! You have to coax a response out of everybody, you have to seek your own inner “yes!,” and everybody else’s, too! You have to undergo a transformation right there in front of everybody! Pump your fist, do a quick turn! But get there and then get along! Galvanize people for an hour at most, or you’ll lose their attention and they won’t want to come back for more lessons, more enlightenment, more self-revelation, more cash payments. You’re a motivator, a life strategist, a guru, an expert, a growth facilitator!, so act like one!

Now, you’ll get on to flyfishing, whatever that is! First, remind people that the pursuit of perfection ain’t fun, and there are lots of hurdles before they reach happiness. Tell them -- **DON’T! ASK THEM!** – how to come out of the pack and excel! They’ll never have to overcome seasickness, at least I hope not, they’ll just have to embrace the gentile sport, oops!, I meant The Gentle Sport, and moving water will pose no challenges. The enemy is banality; they and you should have clear goals, with measurable outcomes, recognize opportunities, and **ALWAYS!** persevere despite failures.

And there **WILL BE FAILURES!**, and challenges so difficult you think you’ll never rise to them, so find something in yourself that’ll make it OK and confer that message of OK-ness to them. Imagine with them discrete steps; urge them to envision where they want to be in x years, help them find the door in every privy.

Get them to stand up and shout!, and show them how!

There are no quick fixes. You and they need empowerment strategies, positive attitudes to provide personalized self-help. It’s what you think of yourself, not what others think of you, that is the secret to self-transformation. If you’re good at some things, and bad at others, work to be good at **ALL** things! The audience paid for enlightenment, so tell them it’s OK to brag, as “isn’t that the best (fill in blank) you ever saw?” “Come with me to achieve spiritual and flyfishing wealth.”

Follow your dreams, make personal development your goal, the foundation of **YOUR** future! Make friends, and enemies, human and from nature. Abandon inertia, and fear of failure or success. **Begone Embarrassment!** Forget Moany Mondays, weepy Wednesdays, and concentrate on Flyfishing Fridays, be weekend winners! Life is a chrysalis, a labyrinth, a box of chocolates, a stream full of fishes eager to succumb to your skills; the tug is, after all, still the drug.

Fly Tying Class Wrap Up

By: Mark Johnson

Just a quick follow up to our 2 beginning fly tying classes held in February at the Grand Ledge Area District Library. We had a total of 26 people enrolled over the 2 classes and everyone seemed to enjoy the class instruction. Many thanks to RCFF club members Steven Arnoczky, Bob Ceru, Phil Stevens, Rick Lewandowski, John Ross, Marty Crimp, Bob Bawden and Mark Johnson that helped out with the class.

Below are a few pictures from the classes.



Intro to Fly Fishing Class

By: Mark Johnson

Just a reminder that the club is scheduled to do another Intro to Fly Fishing Class for the Grand Ledge Area District Library on Tuesday, June 25th from 6-8pm. This will be at Jaycee Park by the river just like last summer. Put that date on your calendar as we will need some club members again to help out. More information on that as it gets closer.

New License Requirements for Guides By: Mark Johnson

Note that there are new licensing requirements for fishing guides in Michigan effective March 1. See the link below for more details.

[Inland fishing guides \(michigan.gov\)](http://michigan.gov)

Quiet Adventures Symposium

By: Mark Johnson

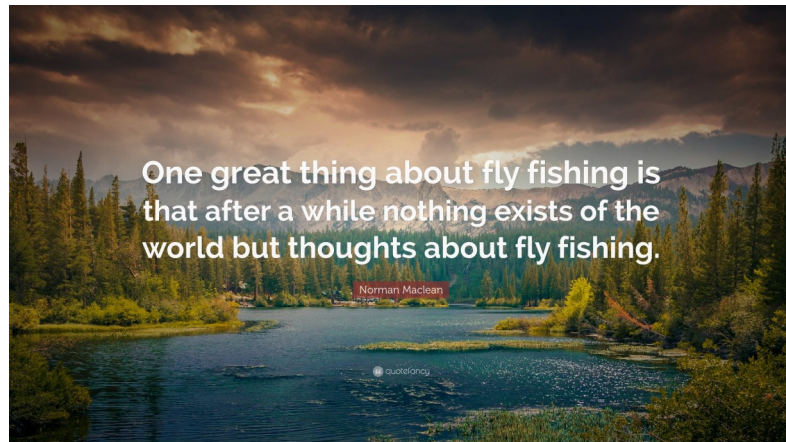
The Red Cedar Fly Fishers had a table this past weekend at the Quiet Adventures Symposium on the campus of Michigan State University. The club would like to thank Bob Ceru and Phil Stevens for spending the day there tying flies and promoting the club.



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Refrigerator Reminders

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.

**** Remember to purchase your new fishing license before the end of this month.****

April

9th: 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.