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# Tippets, Tapers & Tales

May 7, 2024

## President's Message

With the warmer weather I hope people have gotten a chance to get out and do some fishing.

We have a fun meeting planned for May. There will be no Zoom link for this meeting so plan on attending in person. We will have Mike Stout of Michigan Waterways Stewards giving us a short update on what is happening with that organization that we are involved with, then we will be having a club "Swap Meet". Bring your unused or excess fly fishing gear or regular fishing gear to the meeting for sale or trade to other club members. Have your items priced ahead of time, I will have some price tags there if you need them and prepare for a fun evening. Be sure to bring cash or a check for your purchases with club members as they are not going to be able to accept a credit card.

We will be having our club elections at the June picnic in Holt. We are in need of some board members to help out with the club. We need a President and can use some other At-Large Directors. If you are interested in becoming a member of the board, let a current board member know as we will be putting names in nomination at the picnic and voting in next years officers.

As alluded to in the above paragraph, we will have our club picnic on June 11th at Valhalla Park in Holt. Put this date on your calendar so you don't forget as this is always a fun time for the whole family. We will have some raffles etc. that night. More details in next month's newsletter.

See you at the May meeting.

Mark



## RED CEDAR FLY FISHERS

*Okemos, Michigan*

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

## May Meeting

By: Mark Johnson

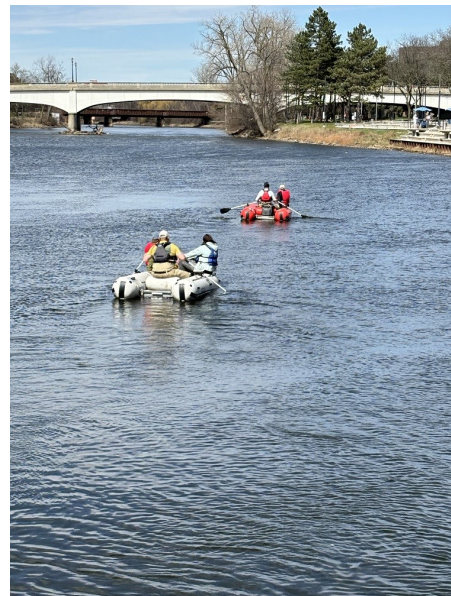
Our May meeting will be in person only with no Zoom link. We will be having a club "Swap Meet". Bring any fly fishing gear or regular fishing gear you don't use anymore to the club meeting and sell or trade your items with other club members. This should be a fun event. Price up your items (I will have some price tags there) and bring to the meeting. Those of you looking to buy be sure to bring plenty of cash or a check as members are not likely to be able to accept credit cards. We will have no general raffle that night but will have our Spey Rod Squares Raffle to purchase. We will have a short presentation by Mike Stout of Michigan Waterways Stewards and some announcements at the start of the evening.

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## April Club Work Project

By: Mark Johnson

Just a quick follow up to our clubs April 6 and 7 work outing on the Red Cedar River. We had 2 pretty good weather days and collected quite a bit of trash and worked on clearing a pretty big log jam on Sunday. Thanks to those club members that showed up on those days to help out. A few pictures below from the event.



## Renzetti *A Family, a Vise and a Beautiful Way to Spend a Life*

By: Jim DuFresne

What happens when a talented machinist from a family of artists develops a lifelong passion for fly fishing? We get a damn-good vise for tying flies.

That's the equation behind Andy Renzetti and the successful fly-tying vises he has been designing and producing for half a century. Vises that are beautiful, functional, and artistically simple.

"Our vises are so beautiful," said Lily Renzetti, Andy's wife and president of the Florida-based company. "But they are also functional and very simple. Simple lines that make them very comfortable to tie flies on them." Renzetti was working full-time in a machine shop and fishing every chance he could when, in the early 1970s, he began making fly-tying tools in the one-car garage behind his house. Those late night and weekend endeavors quickly spread to vises.

There were vises on the market and even rotary vises, but Renzetti focused on designing a true rotary vise. In 1972, Renzetti unveiled the Presentation 3000 at a fly-fishing show in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, the first vise featuring true inline rotary action.

"We were in Pennsylvania and Andy was tying a lot of wooly buggers," said Lily, explaining Renzetti's frustration with the vises he was using. "With (the Presentation 3000) the materials are evenly distributed on the hook, that's what a true rotary vise accomplishes."

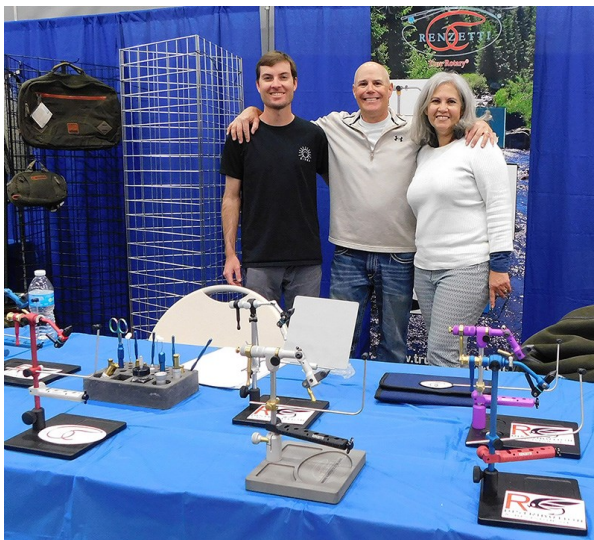
The key to Renzetti's new vise was designing it with an adjustable jaw. When a jaw can be repositioned, then the hook shank can be perfectly aligned with the vise's axis of rotation. You simply hold one end of the che-nille, and the rotating jaw produces perfect wraps. Then do the same with the hackle.

A perfect wooly bugger.

The Presentation 3000 was the most revolutionary vise at the time. It was also the most expensive with a retail price of \$199.95. But there was a market for top-end vises, and it wasn't long before Orvis came knocking on their door.

"That was in the late 1970s, and Orvis was our first big distributor," said Lily. "But honestly, word of mouth is how we got started."

To meet the demand, Renzetti began renting after hours the machine shop equipment where he was still working full-time. By 1977, his hobby had become a part-time gig, and the following year, he quit his job, built a three-car garage, and hung a shingle on it that said "Renzetti Custom Machine."



Lily Renzetti, president of Renzetti Inc. with her sales reps displaying their lines of vises in their booth at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo last March.

## Renzetti Continued.

It wasn't long before Renzetti was totally focused on vises and fly-tying tools so in 1985 he replaced the three-car garage with a new manufacturing facility and three years later Renzetti Inc., as it is known today, was formally registered.

The demand for Renzetti vises kept pouring in, especially after the Traveler series was introduced in 1988 as a more affordable and portable vise that was still True Rotary featuring unquestionable hook-holding power. Up to that point, every part of a Renzetti vise was handmade by a machinist. But increasing sales of the Traveler vises prompted Renzetti to invest in computerized equipment that overwhelmed his small shop. So this time, longing to live closer to the ocean and tired of the long Pennsylvania winter, Andy said to Lily "The salt water is calling me."

In 1996, they packed up the company and moved their family and two key associates to Florida.

Renzetti Inc. is still family-owned but has 14 employees at its headquarters in Titusville and sales reps around the country. Their catalog also includes hand tools, from bobbins and scissors to hair packers and soft foam tool caddies to hold everything, as well as rod lathes and the accessories you'll need to build a fly rod. Everything is made in America.

But to most of us, Renzetti means vises that are beautiful, functional, and artistically simple.

"It's been a beautiful journey," said Lily. "We've been blessed."

So have all of us who have ever slipped a hook into a Renzetti vise.



The Renzetti Master M6014 Vise. At Almost \$1,200, it's one of the company's top-of-the line vises. "When you offer quality and function, there's a cost to that," said Lily Renzetti. "And quality and function is the most important thing for us."



Frustrated with vises on the market, Andy Renzetti designed and built the Presentation 3000, the first true rotary vise, in his garage in 1972.

This article is courtesy of Jim DuFresne of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

## **Potter Park Event June 1 By: Mark Johnson**

There will be another Cleanup event on June 1st from 10am-3pm in Potter Park. See the link below for details on the cleanup event. The Red Cedar Fly Fishers will be there in Potter Park that day with a table set up to promote the club and offer fly tying and fly casting introduction to anyone that stops by. We will not be directly involved with the cleanup this time but there to promote the club. We will need some volunteers that day to help staff the club table. If you can help out please email Bob Ceru and let him know at bob.ceru@gmail.com

<https://www.miwaterwaysstewards.org/lansing-rivers-and-river-trail-cleanup-2024.html>

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## **June Picnic**

**By: Mark Johnson**

Our last meeting of the year is our club Picnic and is scheduled for June 11th at 6:00pm at Valhalla Park in Holt, MI. The club will provide burgers, brats, buns, condiments, chips, pop and water, and table service. We are asking members to bring a salad or dessert. The whole family is invited to attend. We will have some bucket raffles, silent auctions, etc. We will be selling squares on our Spey Rod raffle and will be drawing the winners of that on this evening also. Put it on your calendar so you don't miss this always fun event. More details in next month's newsletter.

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## **Great Lakes-Ohio Council Event in Toledo on June 15 By: Mark Johnson**

The Great Lakes Council and the Ohio Council will host a joint Facilitator Training Workshop on June 15 from 9am to 3 pm at the Merickel-Farley Trout Club at 2319 S. Berkey Southern Road, Swanton, Ohio.

This is just west of the Toledo Airport.

The morning from 9-11am will be a Facilitator Training Program of the Fly Casting Skills Development Program. Two FFI individuals will be coming in from the west coast to teach this program. This is for people wanting to be able to instruct the FCSD Program for their own clubs. There will be lunch from 11-12 noon then from 12-3pm the people that were trained in the morning will be working the FCSD program to put people through the courses. There is no charge for the morning or afternoon events. Watch your email and the GLC Facebook page for more information and how to go about signing up for this event.

The Importance of Changing Flies on the Water By: Kent Klewein

# The Importance of Changing Flies on the Water

By Kent Klewein



Many thanks for this article, and author, Kent Klewein, from the November 2019 newsletter, *The Creel*. And, the Creel editor, Tim Guilfoile, with the Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers.

**How long do you fish with flies without success before you decide to change them?**

*I'll usually fish for about thirty minutes with my first rig of the day*, and if I'm not getting any hookups, I'll begin regularly changing my flies out until I find a pattern that works. The willingness to change your flies on the water when you're not getting bites, is often the key factor in determining whether you have a good or bad day of fishing. I can't tell you how many times I've had someone walk up to me in the parking lot at the end of the day and complain about how the fish weren't biting. While I, on the other hand, had caught and released dozens of fish in the same section of water. Most of the time that discouraged angler stuck with a few patterns during the day, and didn't change flies enough times to find out what patterns were really working. How do I know this? I know this because I was that discouraged angler many times early on, in my career.

It can be very obvious to us that changing flies is the answer when we're able to sight-fish and see fish rejecting our flies. But many times you'll find yourself fishing in conditions where sight-fishing isn't an option. A few examples is when your fishing fast moving choppy water, water with significant glare, and stained water conditions. None of these will provide anglers the opportunity to get visual feedback. In these conditions, anglers should change their flies when they're not getting bites for extended periods of time. If you know your rig is set up correctly (correct tippet size, fly size, split-shot amount, or indicator placement) for the specific water you're fishing, and your making good presentations, a light bulb should be going off in your head telling you to change fly patterns if you're not getting bites.

Sometimes you'll find a single pattern will work for you the entire day when there's a hatch that fish are keying in on. However, when there's not a hatch or specific bug that the fish are keying in on, you may find that one pattern will work in one hole and the next spot it won't work at all.

In this situation, you should be prepared to change flies from one hole to the next to consistently catch fish. The best advice I can give anglers is don't be lazy and stick with fishing flies that aren't producing. Furthermore, anglers should always be ready for the food menu to change throughout the day. Certain species of aquatic bugs and forage food are more active during different times of the day. That means some patterns will work great in the morning and may not work at all later in the day. This is a curve ball that many rookie fly anglers will swing and miss at. They'll be thinking in their head, I caught a half dozen fish right off the bat with this pattern, so I'm going to continue to fish it. Making this mistake will cost you numbers and big fish everyday on the water.

Next time you're on the water and are not getting bites, change your flies until you find a pattern that works. It often is the only reason you're not catching fish. If that doesn't work, continue covering water until you find fish. A good example of this is fishing for steelhead, where you'll find 70% of the fish in 30% of the water.

The above article courtesy of Bob McKeon of the Desert Fly Casters

Additional Notes 'an Ramblings | Bob McKeon

## Stuck on streamers, small streamers...



### Looking back at my old fly fishing journals...

The other night I was rummaging through a couple of drawers and stuck in the back under some fishing gloves, which have never been worn, I found 2 of my fly fishing journals I had taken pride in archiving through the years. My personal history of the streams I frequented in Michigan, along with time in Pennsylvania, New York, and Montana. The pages from forgotten nights were religiously cared for with notes scribbled of my time fly fishing on that particular stream. I kept a record of what I used, the rod, the fly and line, time and temperatures along with a good mention of the fish caught and released. And as it was recorded in such a fashion that I could, *often and did*, come back the next year- or even the next month and have a starting point as to my fly selection for that part of the stream.

There was always a reference. Now that I've dug through these historical short novels from the dark part of my drawer, I find myself saying: "If I could have that night over again, I'd fish a small streamer."

After obtaining and starting a small streamer collection I finding fascinating, I've since wondered why I hadn't used more streamers on my treks. As was pointed out in

some writings in the book: "*The Founding Flies, 43 American Masters, Their Patterns and Influences* (by Mike Valla)," a chapter regarding the influences of *Lew Oatman (1902-1958)* there is a line that sums up one of Oatman's theories on using small streamers: "...why not cover the waters as opposed to covering the air." What a simple thought, after all we're out on the water to catch fish- add a few small streamers in your fly box and use 'em.

The streamer, Silver Darter, shown is a good example of a proven pattern- tied on a #10 hook. Search out some additional patterns beyond the popular Mickey Finn and enjoy the experiences one gains once the fish activity has diminished. Patterns can be simple and imaginative in design, as illustrated below.

*If only I could have that night over again....*



The Founding Flies,  
43 American Masters,  
Their Patterns and Influences  
by Mike Valla



Streamer Fly Tying  
and Fishing  
by Joseph D. Bates, Jr.



Questions/Comments?  
Catch Chris Del Plato at:  
streamertyer@gmail.com  
<https://globalflyfisher.com/streamers365/chris-del-plato>



### SILVER DARTER

Tied by: Chris Del Plato  
Originated by: Lew Oatman

**Hook:** #4-#12 2x1-6x1 hook

**Thread:** White

**Tail:** A very small section of silver pheasant wing quill

**Body:** White floss tapered slightly

**Rib:** Flat silver tinsel

**Throat:** Peacock sword tied half the body length curving upward

**Wing:** 2 silver badger hackles

**Eye:** Jungle cock nail small and short

**Head:** Black

**Notes:** *The Silver Darter* was Lew's favorite streamer to fish, and he preferred it in a size 10. It has become a 'go-to' fly for Chris as well, one of a handful of streamer patterns he would never leave home without. Chris ties most of his Silver Darters in smaller sizes, #8 and #10. The Silver Darter was Lew's favorite streamer to fish, and he preferred it in a size 10. Chris credits the strong natural lateral line drawn by the silver badger hackle to being a key trigger in its effectiveness, sighting wild brown trout as a frequent victim of its lure.

**Source:** Streamer Fly tying and Fishing; Joseph D. Bates, Jr. (1966) Pg. #335

*This imitates the Cayuga minnow and is very effective for brook, brown and rainbow trout, It does well in heavily fished streamers throughout the season, even in low, clear water, and does equally well in wilderness areas. I often have taken trout with it when I couldn't seem to pick a dry fly rising trout would strike. It should be a very slim fly in the water, and I like to use the slenderest hackles available.*

The Streamer List Streamers & Bucktails: The Big Fish Flies • <http://www.streamerlist.com> | Fly Tying • <http://www.flytyingforum.com>

The above article courtesy of Bob McKeon and the Desert Fly Casters

# **Buy My Flyfishing Book NOW, dammit!**

By the Righteous Reverend Bob Kren, RCFFer and Mr. Flyfisherpersonguy

This is one and only “Bible of Bob,” BoB for short, featuring the Book of Bob, and the Kren Kommandments (KK)

**Only \$59.95 American, Cash Only!**

“Why should I buy this?” you may ask.

Well, **YOU NEED IT!** Plus, I want your money.

## **But Wait! Here’s More! A few Carefully-Chosen Random Samplings from BoB!**

From KK:

14. Thou shalt not curse when you break off a big fish, especially not when women or children or priests are nearby. Amen!, Brethren and Sestern!

37. Don’t snag floaters, or stare too much, especially not at rubenesque nudes – it only encourages them!

And then, there’s the Book of Bob, conveniently located between Hubbahubbakkuk and Judy:

VVIIIIX, 51. As you wade through the waters of the rifles of Death, you shall fear no evil, for beneath it all lies trout, just a tat too smart for you to catch.

Visit my website for complete information, and a **FULL COLOR PICTURE OF THE COVER!**



**RED CEDAR FLY  
FISHERS**

P.O. Box 129  
Okemos, MI 48805

[www.redcedarflyfishers.com](http://www.redcedarflyfishers.com)



### Refrigerator Reminders

#### May

**14th:** 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.

#### June

**11th:** RCFF June Picnic, 6:00 P.M. at Valhalla Park in Holt. More details in the June newsletter.